

*Cystodytes*, von Drasche.

*Distoma*, Della Valle, Contribuzioni, &c. p. 40, Napoli, 1877. In part.

*Distomus*, Della Valle, Nuove Contribuzioni, &c., Roma, 1881. In part.

*Cystodytes*, von Drasche, Die Synascidien der Bucht von Rovigno, p. 18, Wien, 1883 (as a subgenus of *Distoma*).

*Colony* of irregular form, attached and incrusting, sometimes lobed, and of moderate thickness.

*Ascidiozooids* surrounded by capsules formed of calcareous disk-shaped spicules.

No vascular appendages present.

*Test* cartilaginous, containing calcareous disk-shaped spicules.

*Branchial Sac* small.

*Abdomen* as large as thorax.

Dr. R. von Drasche, in his Synascidien der Bucht von Rovigno, distinguished two new species of Distomidæ as having a remarkable form of calcareous spicule which clearly separated them from all allied forms. On this account he divided the old genus *Distoma*, to which these new forms belong in their other characteristics, into two subgenera, *Cystodytes* and *Distoma*. Previously, however, Della Valle had described and figured<sup>1</sup> a form of spicule occurring in *Distoma dellechiaiæ*, from the Bay of Naples, which is apparently the same as those of *Cystodytes*. In the Challenger collection there are two additional new species which agree in all essential characteristics of generic value with v. Drasche's two species of *Cystodytes* and with *Distoma dellechiaiæ*, Della Valle, and I consider that as these five species are so clearly distinguished from other Distomidæ it will be of advantage and will simplify classification if *Cystodytes* as defined by von Drasche be considered an independent genus.

The colony is in all cases of somewhat irregular form and moderately large size. It is attached by the greater part or the whole of its lower surface, and the upper surface may be either nearly flat or raised so as to form a convex mass of moderate thickness. The species from the Adriatic are of rather greater thickness than those in the Challenger collection: *Cystodytes cretaceus* may be as much as 3 cm. in thickness.

The colour varies considerably. It may be milk-white, grey, yellow, brown, or violet. The surface is always smooth. In von Drasche's two species the Ascidiozooids are arranged in distinct systems. This is not so obvious in the Challenger species. *Cystodytes draschii* shows in some places the formation of irregular systems, but in *Cystodytes philippinensis* there seems to be no definite arrangement. The most characteristic feature of the genus is the formation, around the greater part of the body of each Ascidiozoid, of a calcareous capsule formed of separate discoidal plates which

<sup>1</sup> Nuove Contribuzioni, &c., p. 23, Tav. ix. figs. 98, 99.