

divided into three sections, named *Integra*, *Stellatæ*, and *Radiatæ*. The representative of the first of these sections cannot now be recognised; the second section is equivalent to the Asteroidea, and comprised nine species; the third section embraced the Ophiuroidea and Comatulæ.

Lamarck,¹ in 1816, divided the *Asterias* of Linné (which he regarded as a family under the name of "Les Stellerides") into four genera, which he named *Comatula*, *Euryale*, *Ophiura*, and *Asterias*, the last being equivalent to the section "*Stellatæ*" of Linné, and to the Asteroidea of the present day. He divided the genus *Asterias* into two sections: (i.) "*Asteries scutellées*," and (ii.) "*Asteries rayonnées*," the former embracing the species in which the length of the ray does not exceed that of the diameter of the disk, and the latter those in which the length of the ray is greater than the diameter of the disk.

In 1830 de Blainville² proposed to divide the Asteroidea (which he ranked as a family, "*Asteridea*") into five sections ("*genres ou sous-genres*"), which were characterised by the general form, and by the number of the rays. The composition of the different groups was more or less heterogeneous, and none of them have been maintained.

In 1834 Nardo³ grouped a number of species known to him into five genera, two of which are maintained, viz., *Asterina* and *Linckia*.

In 1835 Agassiz⁴ divided the *Asterias* of Lamarck (which he ranked as a family in the order "Les Stellerides") into nine genera, including fossil forms. Of the eight genera in which recent forms were included, two are maintained *in statu quo* (*Ophidiaster* and *Culcita*), and the name of a third (*Goniaster*) is used in a restricted sense. The remaining genera correspond to groups named by Linck or Nardo.

This partition of genera was based on a number of structural characters, and was the first approach towards a morphological classification of the group.

In April 1840 Müller and Troschel⁵ published a preliminary classification of the Asteroidea, which they divided into three unnamed families, characterised by the presence or absence of an anal aperture, and by the quadriserial or biserial arrangement of the ambulacral tube-feet. Fourteen genera were defined by means of structural characters, and representative species were cited. Two years later this work was expanded into a complete monograph on the group, entitled: *System der Asteriden* (Braunschweig, 1842), which has formed the basis of all subsequent systematic work on the Asteroidea. In the monograph the three families above indicated comprised eighteen genera, which included 140 species.

¹ Hist. Nat. Anim. s. vert., t. ii. p. 530, 1816.

² Dict. Sci. Nat., art. "Zoophyte," t. lx. p. 216, 1830; *Manuel d'Actinologie ou de Zoophytologie*, 1834, p. 235.

³ De Asteriis, Oken's *Isis*, 1834, Heft vii. p. 716.

⁴ *Prodrome d'une Monographie des Radiaires ou Echinodermes*, *Mém. Soc. Sci. Nat. Neuchâtel*, t. i. 1835, p. 190.

⁵ *Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin*, April 1840, p. 102.