

for the sake of showing what has been the fate of the Monaxonida at the hands of the more recent authorities on the subject. We must now investigate the position assigned to the group by Dr. Vosmaer himself. His system, based as it is upon all that was good of the various old schemes, is naturally a great improvement upon any of its predecessors. In brief outline it is as follows :—

PORIFERA.

Class I. PORIFERA NON-CALCAREA.

Order 1. Hyalospongiæ (= Hexactinellida).

Order 2. Spiculispongiæ.

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| Suborder | I. Lithistina. |
| „ | II. Tetractina. |
| „ | III. Oligosilicina. |
| „ | IV. Pseudotetraxonia. |
| „ | V. Clavulina. |

Order 3. Cornacuspongiæ.

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| Suborder | I. Halichondrina. |
| „ | II. Ceratina. |

Class II. PORIFERA CALCAREA.

Order 1. Homocœla.

Order 2. Heterocœla.

Here the two suborders Clavulina and Halichondrina correspond to the Monaxonida, and in the present work these two suborders are maintained as the two primary divisions of the group, though it has been found necessary, after a careful study of the large amount of material at our disposal, to modify somewhat the arrangement of the smaller subdivisions. Dr. Vosmaer, we may here mention, subdivides the Clavulina and Halichondrina as follows :—

Suborder *Clavulina*.

Families—1. Polymastidæ. 2. Suberitidæ. (3. Clioniadæ.)

Suborder *Halichondrina*.

Families—1. Halichondridæ. 2. Spongillidæ. 3. Desmacidonidæ. 4. Ectyonidæ.

Quite recently¹ Professor Sollas has published the outlines of a slightly different modification of already existing schemes, in which the meaning of the name Monaxonida

¹ *Sci. Proc. Roy. Dub. Soc.*, vol. v. part ii. p. 112.