

# DESCRIPTION OF GENERA AND SPECIES.

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## ALCYONARIA.

### Order I. GORGONACEA.

#### Section I. HOLAXONIA.

#### Family I. DASYGORGIDÆ.

*Chrysogorgiæ*, Verrill, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. xi. No. 1, p. 21, 1883.

This family is established for the genera included by Verrill in his family *Chrysogorgidæ*, as well as for a new genus of simple forms, with unbranched stems.

The genus *Chrysogorgia*, Duchassaing and Michelotti, was placed by the authors of the Memoir on the Corals of the Antilles, in their *Revue des Zoophytes, &c.* (Paris, 1871), among the Gorgonellaceæ, next to *Verrucella*, and they mention that the species described in the Supplement (p. 13) to their Memoir under the same name, but there placed among the Primnoids, is the same as that described on p. 21 of the work. The figures on pls. i. and iv. of the work of these authors, described as *Chrysogorgia desbonni*, do not appear to belong to the same species, and as the type specimen is no longer to be found in the Museum of Turin, this doubt will not be easily settled. Verrill has, however (*loc. cit.*), given a new diagnosis of the genus and also re-described *Chrysogorgia desbonni*, referring also to this genus, as a new species (*Chrysogorgia fewkesi*), a form referred to as *Chrysogorgia desbonni* by Pourtalès, in which the polyps are "covered with scales like those of the stem [irregular, not imbricated] and closed by eight blunt lancet-shaped scales."

In the uncertainty as to what species was really described by Duchassaing and Michelotti under the name *Chrysogorgia desbonni*, we prefer to adopt Verrill's genus *Dasygorgia*, which appears to be the most prominent one of the group, as the type genus of a family, which may be characterised as follows:—

Colony consisting of a simple or branched axis. Main axis; calcareous at its base, which latter is either flattened and disc-like, or ramifying into numerous root-like processes; the fibrous portions of the stems and branches with calcareous particles intermixed; often brilliantly iridescent. Cœnenchyma; for the most part thin, sometimes