

INTRODUCTION.

In the *Histoire Naturelle des Coralliaires* of Milne-Edwards there will be found a succinct but accurate account of the various memoirs on the Alcyonaria which had been published prior to 1857, and as this work has lost none of its importance to the student of this group, we refer to its pages for a summary of the labours of the older writers. To Milne-Edwards, Dana, and Kölliker we are principally indebted for our knowledge of the classification and systematic position of the Alcyonaria, and but few attempts have been made to revise the systems under which these biologists arranged the forms known to them. Nevertheless during the last few years the number of new genera and species described has been very great, and at the same time very large additions have been made to our knowledge of the structure, growth, and development of many of the recent forms. While it does not seem necessary to give a complete bibliography of the group, such being already published in the various records of zoological literature, special reference must be made to the writings of Gray¹ and Verrill,² to the excellent monograph of Klunzinger³ on the Corals of the Red Sea, and to the splendid memoirs of those of the North Sea by Koren and Danielssen,⁴ nor must the writings of Marenzeller,⁵ Marion,⁶ and Ridley⁷ be overlooked, as equally with the others advancing our knowledge of new species, while that of the minute structure of the group has been greatly furthered by the able researches of de Lacaze Duthiers,⁸ Kölliker,⁹ Moseley,¹⁰ Kowalevsky and Marion,¹¹ Hickson,¹² Herdman,¹³ Danielssen, von Koch,¹⁴ and Pourtales.¹⁵

¹ J. E. Gray, Catalogue of Lithophytes or Stony Corals in the Collection of the British Museum, 1870, and very numerous papers in the *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, and the *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*

² The various Memoirs of Professor Verrill will be found quoted in full in the following Description of Genera.

³ Dr. C. B. Klunzinger, *Die Korallthiere des Rothen Meeres*, Berlin, 1877.

⁴ J. Koren and D. C. Danielssen, *Nye Alcyonider, Gorgonider og Pennatulider tilhørende Norges Fauna*, Bergen, 1883. D. C. Danielssen, *Den Norske Nordhavs-Expedition, 1876-78; Alcyonida*, Christiania, 1887.

⁵ E. v. Marenzeller, in *Denkschr. math-nat. Cl. d. k. Akad. Wiss. Wien*, Bd. xxxv., 1877.

⁶ A. F. Marion, *Comptes rendus*, t. xciv., 1882.

⁷ S. O. Ridley, *Zool. Coll. of H.M.S. "Alert," 1884*, and papers in the *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, and in the *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1881-1887.

⁸ H. de Lacaze Duthiers, *Hist. Nat. des Corail.*, Paris, 1863.

⁹ A. Kölliker, *Icones Histiologicæ*, Leipzig, 1863, and numerous Memoirs as quoted hereafter.

¹⁰ H. N. Moseley, *Phil. Trans.*, vol. clxvi., 1876; and *Zool. Chall. Exp.*, part vii., vol. ii., 1881.

¹¹ Alex. Kowalevsk and A. F. Marion, *Comptes rendus*, t. xcvi., 1882; *Ann. Mus. d'hist. nat. de Marseille*, 1883.

¹² S. J. Hickson, *Phil. Trans.*, vol. clxxiv., and *Quart. Journ. Micr. Sci.*, 1883.

¹³ W. A. Herdman, *Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edin.*, vol. viii., 1884.

¹⁴ G. v. Koch, *Morphol. Jahrb.*, vols. iv., v., vi., vii., and viii., 1878-1883; *Mitth. Zool. Stat. Neapel*, Bd. iii., 1882. *Die Gorgoniden des Golfes von Neapel, &c.*, 1887.

¹⁵ L. F. de Pourtales, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, vols. v. and vi., 1878-1881.