Ceratoisis, Perceval Wright, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., December 1868, p. 427, January 1869, p. 23; Gray, Cat. Lithophytes Brit. Mus., 1870, p. 18; Studer, Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, Bd. xi. p. 10, July 1883.

The colony is simple or branched, in the latter case with branches arising from the calcareous internodes. These latter are long, and hollow when young. The coenenchyma contains long, smooth spindles or needle-like spicules. In the polyps, which are non-retractile, there are large needles. One row of these spicules is so disposed, that one of them lies at the base between each pair of tentacles and projects beyond them, the result being a circlet of diverging spines round about the oral region.

[Lepidisis, Verrill, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., vol. xi. pp. 10, 18, 1883.

The colony is simple or branched. The branches arise from the horny nodes. The coenenchyma includes an outer layer of small, elongated, scale-like spicules, sometimes intercalated with small spindle-shaped spicules. The large polyps exhibit at the base of the tentacles eight large needle-like spicules alternating with the tentacles; the polyp-walls include large spindle-shaped spicules, more or less covered by an outer layer of small elongated scales.

It seems difficult to separate the unbranched species of this genus from the unbranched species of Ceratoisis. In Ceratoisis also and indeed in the typical forms of Wright and Studer, the coenenchyma also includes scale-like flat spicules. The predominance of these over the long needles leads to forms where the coenenchyma is externally smooth and thick, as for instance in Ceratoisis grandiflora, Studer. The polyps, however, are in both cases of similar structure. It is perhaps advisable provisionally to unite Lepidisis and Ceratoisis.]

3. Callisis, Verrill, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., vol. xi. p. 9, July 1883.

The colony is branched; the calcareous internodes of the axis are solid or very slightly hollow; the branches spring from the calcareous internodes. The short polyps contain spindle-shaped spicules. The coenenchyma is furnished with a layer of flat, scale-like spicules.

4. Acanella, Gray, Cat. Lithophytes Brit. Mus., 1870, p. 16; emend. Verrill, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., vol. xi. p. 21, 1883.

The axis of the colony may be simple or branched. The axis has long calcareous internodes and short horny nodes. The branches arise from the nodes, often in whorls. The coenenchyma is thin, with long spindle-shaped spicules, which form a circlet of needles around the base of the tentacles. The tentacles contain numerous spicules.