

2A. But it is in the second group of interpretations of the systematic position of the Pteropoda—that is to say, among those which place them along with some other Molluscan class—that we find the idea of their connection with the Cephalopoda carried to the furthest extreme. This view consists in regarding the Pteropoda as Cephalopoda, and in simply ranking them within this group. It was long since defended by Oken¹ and by Eschscholtz.² More recently it has been adopted by Ray Lankester.³

2B. We now come to the third hypothesis, according to which the Pteropoda should be placed among the Gastropoda.

In this connection it is interesting to point out that Cuvier, who established the “class” Pteropoda, remarked in his memoir on *Clio borealis*⁴ that this animal exhibits “aucun des caractères des Céphalopodes,” but that on the contrary it “offre beaucoup de rapports avec les Gastéropodes.” In 1800, in his *Leçons d’anatomie comparée*, he even placed *Clio* (= *Clione*) among the Gastropoda, which, however, did not prevent him four years later from creating a distinct class for the Pteropoda.

It must be noted, however, that certain important points in the morphology of the Pteropoda were incompletely understood by Cuvier; thus he misunderstood the foot (that is the median part of the foot) of the Gymnosomata. This organ was comprehended only by de Blainville, who with remarkable insight affirmed that the relations of the Pteropoda were with the Opisthobranchia (“Bulléens”), at the same time reducing the group Pteropoda to its proper rank, and abstracting from it the foreign forms (Heteropoda, Nudibranchia, Cœlenterata) which had been introduced by Péron and Lesueur, with the exception of *Phylliroë*.⁵

I must admit, however, that the two hypotheses which I have placed in the second main group have not had very favourable receptions. I have already stated that Oken’s interpretation, that the Pteropoda are Cephalopoda, is only defended at the present day by Ray Lankester. De Blainville’s interpretation, that the Pteropods are Gastropods nearly related to the Bulloidea, which was so ably defended by the lamented Souleyet,⁶ who died in 1852, has also fallen into oblivion.

Spengel, however, in his study of the nervous system of the Mollusca, places the Pteropoda among the Euthyneurous Gastropoda, as a group of the same rank as the Opisthobranchia and Pulmonata,⁷ though still with a certain amount of reservation.⁸

¹ Lehrbuch der Zoologie.

² Zoologischer Atlas.

³ Mollusca, Encyclopædia Britannica, 9th ed., vol. xvi.

⁴ *Ann. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris*, 1802.

⁵ It was Souleyet and not Leuckart who first recognised the true affinities of *Phylliroë*. His work dates from 1846 (*Comptes rendus*, t. xxii. p. 473), whilst that of Leuckart was only published in 1851 (*Archiv f. Naturgesch.*, Jahrg. xvii. p. 139).

⁶ *Voyage de la Bonite, Zoologie*, t. ii., 1852.

⁷ Die Geruchsorgane und das Nervensystem der Mollusken, *Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool.*, Bd. xxxv. p. 373.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 381.