

the edifice. Thus far all the Discophoræ, whether covered-eyed or naked-eyed, had been placed in one and the same genus, and even the Ctenophoræ were associated with them. Only a few species of Siphonophoræ were referred to other genera; but then these were not placed in close proximity with the Medusæ proper, and the Hydroids were unhesitatingly referred to the class of Polyyps, or at least arranged among them. The whole number of genera distinguished among the animals now referred to the class of Acalephs amounted only to thirteen in 1801; namely, *Beroë Brown*, *Medusa L.*, *Physalia Lamrk.* (first called *Arethusa* by P. Brown, then *Physalis* by Osbeck and *Salacia* by Linnæus), *Velella Lamrk.*, and *Porpita Lamrk.* (first called *Phyllococe* and *Thalia* by P. Brown), *Gleba Brug.*, *Physophora Forsk.*, *Lucernaria Müll.*, *Hydra L.*, *Coryne Gärtn.*, *Tubularia L.*, *Sertularia Lamrk.*, *Millepora L.*

Owing to the greater number of Medusæ now known, including species from distant parts of the world, and also to the discovery of numerous animals more or less closely allied to them, it has become necessary to institute comparisons between the animals of this class and the representatives of other classes, which were not even suggested before. This is therefore truly the age of Comparative Natural History; and a new science, Comparative Anatomy, arises with it, by the gigantic labors of the scientific hero of modern times.

Péron and LeSueur¹ open this period with investigations upon a far greater number of species of Acalephs than had been observed by all the investigators of former ages taken together. Engaged as naturalists in the expedition of Captain Baudin to the South Seas during the first four years of this century, they had the fullest opportunities of examining these animals alive; and LeSueur, with incomparable skill, reproduced their delicate appearance in a series of colored plates, so magnificent and of such costly execution, that to this day a small part of them only have been published. But these illustrations were deposited in the library of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, and have been extensively used by French naturalists who have written upon Acalephs during the last thirty years. They are referred to, and partly copied by, de Blainville in his *Manuel d'Actinologie*.

¹ PÉRON (FR.) ET LESUEUR (C. A.), *Voyage de découvertes aux Terres Australes, pendant les années 1800-1804, Paris, 1807-1816, 3 vols. 4to. fig.* — *Histoire générale et particulière de tous les Animaux qui composent la famille des Méduses*, *Ann. Mus. XIV. p. 218.* — *Tableau des Caractères généraux et spécifiques de toutes les espèces de Méduses connues jusqu'à ce jour*, *Ann. Mus. XIV. p. 325.* — *Sur les Méduses du genre Equorée*, *Ann. Mus. XV. p. 41.* — LeSueur by himself published

two papers relating to the Acalephs and allied animals: *Mémoire sur quelques nouvelles espèces d'Animaux Mollusques and Radiaires recueillies dans la Méditerranée près de Nice*, *Journal de Physique*, vol. 77, p. 119, and *Mémoire sur l'organisation des Pyrosomes et sur la place qu'ils doivent occuper dans une classification naturelle*, *Journal de Physique*, vol. 80, p. 413. He was the first to suggest that the Siphonophoræ are compound animals, — an opinion now almost universally admitted.