

of the observer to trace their history. But when the naturalist who devotes years to their study is not only an eminent physician, but at the same time a minute, accurate, and philosophical observer, pursuing his task under the most favorable circumstances, great results may be expected. This was the case of Eschscholtz, who, during two voyages around the world, applied himself chiefly to the investigation of these animals, and had better opportunities for studying their various types in their natural element than any other man had enjoyed before, not even excepting Péron and LeSueur. Aside from the large amount of information it contains, the "System der Acalephen" of Eschscholtz is a model work for the manner in which the subject is treated. Full, minute, explicit, decided, where he speaks from personal observation; unpretending, candid, and fair, where he alludes to the investigations of other distinguished authors; cautious and reserved where he has reasons to question the correctness of the statements of others,—he secured the admiration of his contemporaries and the gratitude of his followers, and those who have known him lament his early loss.

CLASSIFICATION OF ESCHSCHOLTZ, 1829.

The limits of the class of Acalephs, as circumscribed by Eschscholtz in 1829, coincide with those assigned to it by Cuvier from the beginning, with the only exception that the Actiniae are excluded. The Hydroids are entirely ignored by Eschscholtz, as if they had no relations to the Acalephs. He divides, for the first time, this class into three natural orders, and distinguishes a number of natural families. All later classifications of the Acalephs are mere modifications or improvements of that of Eschscholtz.

1st Order. CTENOPHORÆ.

1st Family. Callianiridæ, with three genera: *Cestum*, *Cydippe*, *Callianira*.

2d Family. Mnemiidæ: *Eucharis*, *Mnemia*, *Calymma*, *Axiotima*.

3d Family. Beroidæ: *Beroe*, *Medea*, *Pandora*.

2d Order. DISCOPHORÆ.

First Division. *Discophoræ phanercarpæ*.

1st Family. Rhizostomidæ: *Cassiopea*, *Rhizostoma*, *Cephea*.

2d Family. Medusidæ: *Sthenonia*, *Medusa*, *Cyanea*, *Pelagia*, *Chrysaora*, *Ephyra*.

Second Division. *Discophoræ cryptocarpæ*.

1st Family. Geryonidæ: *Geryonia*, *Dianæa*, *Linuche*, *Saphenia*, *Eirene*, *Lynnorea*, *Favonia*.

2d Family. Oceanidæ: *Oceania*, *Callirhoe*, *Taumantias*, *Tima*, *Cytæis*, *Melicertum*, *Phorcynia*.

3d Family. Æquoridæ: *Æquorea*, *Mesonema*, *Ægina*, *Cunina*, *Eurybia*, *Polyxena*.

4th Family. Berenicidæ: *Eudora*, *Berenice*.

3d Order. SIPHONOPHORÆ.

1st Family. Diphyidæ: *Eudoxia*, *Ersæa*, *Aglaisma*, *Abyla*, *Diphyes*, *Cymba*.

2d Family. Physophoridæ: *Apolemia*, *Physophora*, *Hippopodius*, *Rhizophysa*, *Epibulia*, *Agalma*, *Athorybia*, *Stephanomia*, *Discolabe*, *Physalia*.

3d Family. Velellidæ: *Rataria*, *Verella*, *Porpita*.