

scopic animalcules, commonly united under the name of infusory animals, (Infusoria,) from their being found specially abundant in water infused with vegetable matter. These minute beings do not, however, constitute a natural group in the Animal Kingdom. Indeed, a great many that were formerly supposed to be animals are now found to be vegetables. Others are ascertained to be crustaceans, mollusks, worms of microscopic size, or the earliest stages of development of larger species. In general, however, they are exceedingly minute, and exhibit the simplest forms of animal life, and are now grouped together, under the title of Protozoa. But, as they are still very imperfectly understood, notwithstanding the beautiful researches already published on this subject, and as many of them are likely to be finally distributed among vegetables, and the legitimate classes in the Animal Kingdom to which they belong, we have not assigned any special place for them.