

splendida (Atlantic Ocean), and *Alciopa pacifica* (South Sea). Claparède and Panceri, in the *Annél. Chétop. du Golfe de Naples* (1868), gave an account of *Alciopina parasitica* which they found in *Cydlippe densa*; and in his supplemental volume in 1870, the former gave further observations on the group, added two new genera, *Asterope* and *Vanadis*, and used the condition of the snout (cephalic lobe), the presence or absence of an appendix to the setigerous lobe of the foot, and the condition of the proboscis (armed or unarmed), as a basis for classification.

An important paper by R. Greeff¹ in 1876 gives the best account of the group, both historically and anatomically. Like Ehlers he placed them under a special family, the Alciopidæ, distinguished as follows:—Two large and highly organised reddish eyes, and five tentacles. On each side of the foot, ventrally and dorsally, is a brownish segmental organ. Foot has a conical setigerous region, with a dorsal and a ventral cirrus, flattened into lamellæ. The setæ are either simple or compound. Body delicate and translucent. Pelagic.

He makes seven genera, the first five of which do not have the head produced in front of the eyes. Of these *Alciopa* has no appendix to the tip of the foot, and the bristles are simple. *Halodora*, like *Alciopa*, has no armature to the proboscis, nor appendix to the foot, but the bristles are compound. *Asterope* has its proboscis lined with small hard teeth. It has no appendix to the tip of the foot, and the bristles are compound. *Vanadis* has no armature to the proboscis, one cirriform foot-appendix, and the bristles are compound. *Greeffia* (*Nauphanta*²) agrees with the latter in all except that there are two cirriform appendices to the foot. The sixth genus *Callizona* has the head raised into a considerable elevation above the eyes. Proboscis without teeth. A cirriform appendix to the tip of the foot. Bristles compound. Lastly, *Rhynchonerella* has also the process beyond the eyes, an unarmed proboscis. No cirriform appendix to the foot. Bristles compound.

Audouin and Milne-Edwards placed the Alciopidæ with the Phyllodocidæ, and the occurrence of large eyes in the remarkable *Genetyllis oculata* just described is of interest in this respect. It is noteworthy that the presence of very large eyes is confined to the Phyllodocidæ, Syllidæ, and Alciopidæ, for the organs of such as *Nectonereis megalops* of Verrill³ (a *Heteronereis*-form) belong to a different category, though the animal swims at the surface of the sea.

The Alciopidæ occur in most oceans—Atlantic, Pacific, Mediterranean, and the China Sea. They are very rare in the North Sea. They are met with, moreover, both where the surface temperature is low and where it is high, though they appear to be more abundant in the warmer seas.

Very few examples exist in the British Museum.

¹ *Nova Acta Acad. Cæs. Leop.*, Bd. xxix., No. 2, pp. 35–120, Tafn. ii.–vii.

² This name is preoccupied, see p. 182.

³ *New England Annelida*, pl. v. fig. 1.