

INTRODUCTION.

In the Introduction to Part I. of this Report, the accounts of the history, bibliography, and anatomy refer not to the Ascidiæ Simplicēs alone, but to the Tunicata as a whole; still, as the Simple Ascidiāns were undoubtedly discussed there more fully than the other groups, it seems desirable that the more important points in the history and the structure of the Ascidiæ Compositæ should be given here as an introduction to the description of so many new species of that section of the Tunicata.

HISTORY.

Although Compound Ascidiāns belonging to the family Botryllidæ were figured as far back as 1555 by Rondeletius, it was not until two hundred years later, when Schlosser and Ellis in 1756 brought before the Royal Society their account of a species of *Botryllus*, that anything was known of the structure of these colonies, and even then their relationship to the Simple Ascidiāns—some of the main points in the anatomy of which were known nearly two thousand years before—was not suspected. This relationship was made out by the conjoined efforts of several eminent naturalists who investigated the Tunicata during the concluding years of the eighteenth and the opening years of the nineteenth centuries.

Gaertner as early as 1774 evidently saw the relationship of the genus *Distomus*, which he had founded, with the other Tunicata, and Renier in 1793 published similar views in regard to the genus *Botryllus*; but it was left for Cuvier and Savigny, working during the first fifteen years of the present century, the former at the Simple Ascidiāns and the latter at the Compound, to demonstrate beyond all possibility of future doubt the close affinity between these two groups of the Tunicata. Up to the date of publication of Savigny's immortal "Mémoires" (1816), the Compound Ascidiāns then known had been confused by the majority of naturalists with the Alcyonaria or with the Sponges. This patient and accurate observer succeeded in determining, from material preserved in spirit, the complete anatomy of a large number of forms, and he founded ten genera, most of which are still recognised as being among the more important types of the Ascidiæ Compositæ. Lamarck about the same time, on the strength of the anatomical