

Regarding the number of the concentric shells which compose the latticed carapace of the Sphæroidea, we can distinguish six families, viz.:—

- I. Monosphærida (with one single shell).
- II. Dyosphærida (with two concentric shells).
- III. Triosphærida (with three concentric shells).
- IV. Tetrasphærida (with four concentric shells).
- V. Polysphærida (with five or more concentric shells).
- VI. Spongosphærida (with spongy shells).

On the other hand, regarding the number of the radial spines and their regular disposition on the shell-surface, we can distinguish five families, viz.:—

- I. Liosphærida (without radial spines).
- II. Stylosphærida (with two radial spines, opposite in one axis).
- III. Staurosphærida (with four radial spines, opposite in pairs in two axes, perpendicular one to another).
- IV. Cubosphærida (with six radial spines, opposite in pairs in the three dimensive axes).
- V. Astrosphærida (with numerous—eight, twelve, twenty, or more—radial spines, often more than a hundred).

All five latter groups contain representatives of all six former groups; therefore we get together not less than thirty different subfamilies of Sphæroidea, already enumerated in my Prodrômus, 1881, p. 449. I repeat them here to give a better survey of the system there employed.

Families and Subfamilies of SPHÆROIDEA.	LIOSPHERIDA (anacantha).	STYLOSPHÆRIDA (diacantha).	STAUROSPHÆRIDA (tetracantha).	CUBOSPHERIDA (hexacantha).	ASTROSPHÆRIDA (polyacantha).
<i>Monosphærida.</i> (One single shell.)	Ethmosphærida.	Xiphostylida.	Staurostylida.	Hexastylida.	Coscinommidæ.
<i>Dyosphærida.</i> (Two concentric shells.)	Carposphærida.	Sphærostylida.	Staurolonchida.	Hexalanchida.	Haliommida.
<i>Triosphærida.</i> (Three concentric shells.)	Thecosphærida.	Amphistylida.	Stauracantida.	Hexacantida.	Actinommidæ.
<i>Tetrasphærida.</i> (Four concentric shells.)	Cromyosphærida.	Cromyostylida.	Staurocromyida.	Hexacromyida.	Cromyommida.
<i>Polysphærida.</i> (Five or more concentric shells.)	Caryosphærida.	Caryostylida.	Staurocaryida.	Hexacaryida.	Arachnommidæ.
<i>Spongosphærida.</i> (Spongy shells.)	Plegmosphærida.	Spongostylida.	Staurodorida.	Hexadorida.	Spongiommida.