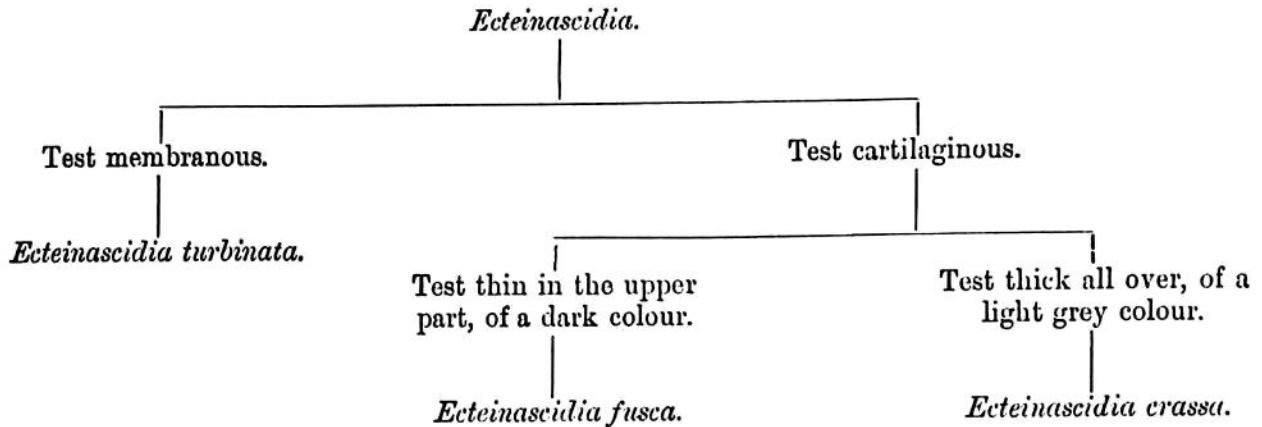


*Ecteinascidia* has its nearest ally in *Clavelina*, and is intermediate in its characters between that genus and *Ciona*, thus leading towards the Ascidiidæ. The three species differ considerably in external appearance, and are also easily distinguished by the structure of their branchial sac and other internal organs.

They may be separated, according to the conditions of their tests, by the following table :—



*Ecteinascidia crassa*, Herdman (Pl. XXXVI. figs. 12-14).

*Ecteinascidia crassa*, Herdman, Prelim. Rep., Proc. Roy. Soc. Edin., 1879-80, p. 723.

*External Appearance.*—The body is irregular in shape, it is rudely triangular, or rather of a flattened pyramidal form, and is attached by an extended base to a clump of sponge spicules. The anterior end is narrow but more or less rounded. The sides are irregular; the posterior end is wide and expanded. The apertures are both near or at the anterior end, they are sessile and inconspicuous, and no lobes are visible.

The surface is rather irregular, but not rough. The colour is a warm grey, slightly yellowish in places.

Length of the body, 1·6 cm. ; breadth of the body (at the posterior end), 1·5 cm.

*The Test* is strong, cartilaginous, and very thick.

*The Mantle* is strongly developed, and the muscle bands are thick.

*The Branchial Sac* has delicate but distinctly marked undulating internal longitudinal bars, borne on large triangular connecting ducts. No papillæ are present. The transverse vessels are all of one size, and are rather wide. The stigmata are elongate-elliptical in shape, and are very regular. The meshes are nearly square, and contain generally three stigmata each.

*The Dorsal Lamina* is in the form of languets.

*The Viscera* extend considerably beyond the branchial sac, and form a distinct abdomen.

This is a small and rather irregular species, which differs notably in external appearance from the other two species, inasmuch as its posterior end is wide, and expands into a broad base in place of tapering to form a short stalk.