

5. *Isidella*, Gray, Cat. Lithophytes Brit. Mus., 1870, p. 15.

Isis, v. Koch, Morph. Jahrb., Bd. iv. p. 112.

The colony is branched. The axis consists of long internodes and short nodes; from the latter the branches are given off. The cœnenchyma is furnished with small acicular spicules with a few small spines. In the walls of the polyps the acicular spicules are large with small spines; the largest are to be found between the bases of each pair of tentacles, but only project beyond these in the dried specimen. The tentacles contain small spindle-shaped spicules, which extend into the very pinnae.

This genus is very nearly related to *Acanella*, but differs in the more spiny character of the spicules and in the mode of branching. Gray referred four species to this genus. Of these *Isis neapolitana*, v. Koch (= *Mopsea mediterranea*, Risso, = *Mopsea elongata*, Phil., and doubtfully *Isis elongata*, Esper) has been carefully investigated by v. Koch. This form may be regarded as the type of the genus. To judge from the nature of the axis, which alone is known, it is possible that *Isis gracilis*, Lamrx., also belongs here; whether this is also true of *Isis coralloides*, Lam., is doubtful.

6. *Sclerisis*, Studer. Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, 1878, p. 661.

The colony is upright and branched, with long finely-furrowed internodes and short disc-shaped nodes. The branches spring from the internodes. The cœnenchyma is very thin and without spicules. The calyces are bell-shaped, with constricted bases, and are covered with large, curved, spinose spicules, which lie closely approximated. Over the oral region of the polyp the large spicules form a quasi operculum. The genus forms a transition towards the next subfamily.

Subfamily 2. MOPSEINÆ.

Mopseida, Gray (*pars*).

The colony is branched, the polyps, which are cup- or club-like, or cylindrical in shape, have the tentacles folded over the oral region when at rest. The axis consists of alternate calcareous internodes and horny nodes; the branches spring for the most part from the former, but sometimes so much on the upper border thereof, that the branch node comes into contact with the stem node, giving the appearance as if it arose therefrom. The spicules of the cœnenchyma are elongated and flattened with very zigzag dentate margins. These dentations mutually interlock, bringing the adjacent spicules into intimate contact. In the polyps the spicules are transversely disposed, and conform to the outline of the polyp wall. In the tentacles there are usually three longitudinal rows of spicules.

This subfamily contains the following genera, of which the first, *Primnoisis*, seems allied to *Dasygorgia*.