

## ANTIPATHARIA, Milne-Edwards.

*Antipathacea*, Dana.*Ceratophyta (pars)*, Gray.

Colonial Zoantharia, possessing a continuous horny sclerobasic axis, which consists of thin concentric lamellæ usually enclosing a central canal. The horny axis is usually more or less branched, and is spinose in all known genera excepting *Savaglia*. The cœnenchyma consists of the fused bases of the zooids; it is always thin, and never contains any spicules proper to it. The sclerobasis may be independent or parasitic; in the latter case the sclerenchyma forms a sheath around some foreign body. The colony is generally fixed by a basal dilation of the sclerenchyma, but in some cases this is replaced by an elongate flattened hook-like base ending in a point. The sclerenchyma is probably a secretion of the ectoderm.

## Family I. SAVAGLIIDÆ, n. n.

*Gerardilæ*, Verrill.*Antipathes (pars)*, Auctt.

Antipatharia the zooids of which possess 24 simple tentacles and 24 mesenteries, and are connected together by a cœnenchyma possessing a series of interzooidal canals opening into the base of each antimere. Sclerenchyma parasitic, not spinose. The tentacles may be completely covered in contraction by the anterior portion of the body-wall. The zooids have the typical Actinian structure.

*Savaglia*, Nardo, 1843. (= *Gerardia*, Lacaze Duthiers, 1864.)

Family II. ANTIPATHIDÆ, Verrill (*emend.*).

Antipatharia in which typically the individual zooids have six simple tentacles, but in dimorphic genera three individuals, each possessing only two tentacles, are morphologically equivalent to one zooid of the ordinary type. The tentacles are contractile, but apparently never "retractile." Sclerenchyma rarely parasitic, always spinose, and usually possessing a central canal. The cœnenchyma is not generally traversed by a number of interzooidal canals, but the individual zooids are brought into communication by a stolon-like lateral outgrowth of their cœlentera. Six primary mesenteries are always present, two of which occupy the transverse axis and bear the reproductive organs. There may be six or four secondary mesenteries which are always short, or these may be absent altogether. This family corresponds to the genus *Antipathes* as instituted by Pallas.