

since these Acalephs are among the most delicate known, and so frail that it is utterly impossible to preserve them for any length of time, in alcohol or any other fluid. Direct comparisons of species inhabiting distant regions are therefore out of the question; and all that can be done in attempting to arrange them systematically is to infer their true characteristics and affinities from the scanty information furnished by various authors. Milne-Edwards justly remarks, that, in the present state of our knowledge, it would be difficult to point out any real differences between the Berœ of the Mediterranean and those observed in the Antilles, in the northern Atlantic, about the Cape of Good Hope, and in the South Seas. As I have had frequent opportunities of examining two very different American species of this type, I feel in a measure prepared to call attention to the characteristic features of these animals.

As Milne-Edwards has already shown, the Beroids proper are not broadly open at both ends; and there is only one free communication with their main cavity, at the actinal pole. The opening mentioned by Cuvier, Delle Chiaje, and Lesson as existing at the opposite pole, is either an illusion resulting from the inversion of the abactinal end of the spherosome, or the result of an accidental perforation of that region. The form of the body varies greatly in different states of contraction; but under all its changing aspects, it is easy to perceive that the characteristic form is that of a compressed egg, truncated at one end, at which the mouth is situated. The chief differences among extreme forms consist in the greater or less extension of the actinal axis, in the more or less tapering of the abactinal or of the actinal pole, the blunter or the narrower end of the body being at opposite poles in different species, and in the compression of the lateral spheromeres. The prominence of the abactinal ends of the lateral spheromeres, while the anterior and posterior spheromeres may be depressed in the direction of the circumscribed area, constitutes another element of the differences noticed in the form of these animals. In all the representatives of this sub-order the oral opening is truncate, with the sole exception of Lesson's *Idya dentata*, from the western coast of Africa, which is represented from a sketch by Rang (Acal. Pl. II. *Fig.* 3) as deeply indented between the rows of locomotive flappers, and having a tentacle projecting from the angle of each indentation. If this is really so, and not the result of laceration, this species should be considered as the type of a distinct genus, forming a distinct family. The circumstance that Lesson was indebted to Rang for the drawing he published, strongly favors the supposition that we have here the first indication of a distinct genus, forming by itself a family of the Ctenophoræ Eurystomæ, distinct from the Beroids proper. For this genus I would propose the name of *Rangia*, in memory of the distinguished author of important contributions to the natural history of the Ctenophoræ, and call the family *RANGIIDÆ*.