

cells, which is called a *lobe*, or *thallus*. This thallus is as yet not differentiated into axial-organs (stem and root) and leaf-organs. On this account, as well as through many other peculiarities, the Thallophytes contrast strongly with all remaining plants—those comprised under the two sub-kingdoms of Prothallus plants and Flowering plants—and for this reason the two latter sub-kingdoms are frequently classed together under the name of *Stemmed plants*, or *Cormophytes*. The following table will explain the relation of these three sub-kingdoms to one another according to the two different views:—

I. Flowerless Plants. (<i>Cryptogamia</i>)	{	A. Thallus Plants (<i>Thallophyta</i>)	}	I. Thallus Plants (<i>Thallophyta</i>)
II. Flowering Plants (<i>Phanerogamia</i>)	{	B. Prothallus Plants (<i>Prothallophyta</i>)	}	II. Stemmed Plants (<i>Cormophyta</i>)
	{	C. Flowering Plants (<i>Phanerogamia</i>)	}	

The stemmed plants, or Cormophytes, in the organization of which the difference of axial-organs (stem and root) and leaf-organs is already developed, form at present, and have, indeed, for a very long period formed, the principal portion of the vegetable world. However, this was not always the case. In fact, stemmed plants, not only of the flowering group, but even of the prothallus group, did not exist at all during that immeasurably long space of time which forms the beginning of the first great division of the organic history of the earth, under the name of the archilithic, or primordial period. The reader will recollect that during this period the Laurentian, Cambrian, and Silurian systems of strata were deposited, the thickness of which, taken as a whole,