

Subfamily ETHMOSPHERIDA,¹ Haeckel, 1862, Monogr. d. Radiol., p. 348
(*sensu restricto*).

Definition.—Liosphærida with one single spherical lattice-shell; living solitary, not aggregated in colonies.

Genus 15. *Cenosphæra*,² Ehrenberg, 1854, Monatsber. d. k. preuss.
Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, p. 237.

Definition.—Liosphærida with one single latticed sphere, with simple shell-pores (not prolonged into free tubuli) and with simple shell-cavity (without internal radial beams).

The genus *Cenosphæra* is the most simple form of all Sphæroidea, and may be regarded as the common ancestral form of this order. The siliceous latticed shell, in which the central capsule is enclosed, represents a simple regular sphere, with simple cavity. The pores of the shell-wall are simple, not prolonged into radial tubuli (as in *Ethmosphæra* and *Sethosphæra*). According to the different form of the pores, the numerous species of this genus can be disposed in four different subgenera. Some species may be easily confounded with isolated shells of the corresponding social *Collosphæra*; but in this latter the spherical shell-form is commonly more or less irregular, in *Cenosphæra* quite regular.

Subgenus 1. *Phormosphæra*, Haeckel, 1881, Prodrömus, p. 448.

Definition.—Pores of the shell regular or subregular, hexagonal or circular, with hexagonal frames or lobes; all nearly of equal size and form.

1. *Cenosphæra primordialis*, n. sp.

Shell very thin walled, smooth. Pores hexagonal, regular, or subregular; twelve to fifteen on the half meridian of the shell; bars between them extremely delicate (only visible when three hundred or four hundred times enlarged). Diameter of the shell nine to ten times that of the meshes. This species is remarkable for the extreme delicacy of the arachnoidal network of the simple spherical shell; it may be regarded as the common ancestral form of all Sphæroidea. The shell equals that of *Heliosphæra tenuissima* (figured in my Monograph, 1862, pl. ix. fig. 2), but differs from it by the smooth surface and the absence of all spines or thorns. I observed this species living in the Indian Ocean, near Ceylon, in 1882; the spherical diameter of the central capsule is about one-third of that of the shell; the contents of the central capsule are colourless

¹ Ethmosphærida = Liosphærida simplicia = Monosphærida anacantha.

² Cenosphæra = Hollow sphere; κενός, σφᾶίρα.