

<p>III. Subfamily Dystympanida. Mitral ring fenestrated, basal ring simple.</p>	}	<p>Two horizontal rings connected by numerous (six to eight or more columellæ).</p>	}	<p>Mitral ring closed by a lattice-plate, basal ring simple,</p>	<p>434. <i>Dystympanium</i>.</p>
<p>IV. Subfamily Eutymppanida. Two horizontal rings (upper mitral ring and lower basal ring) simple. Apical and basal parts of the sagittal ring lost.</p>	}	<p>Two horizontal rings connected by two or three columellæ (four or five open gates).</p>	}	<p>Two columellæ (parts of the sagittal ring),</p>	<p>435. <i>Parastephanus</i>.</p>
				<p>Three columellæ (parts of the half sagittal and the frontal ring),</p>	<p>436. <i>Prismatium</i>.</p>
		<p>Two horizontal rings connected by four or more columellæ (six or eight or more open gates).</p>	}	<p>Four columellæ.</p>	<p>{ Two rings unequal, 437. <i>Pseudocubus</i>.</p> <p>{ Two rings equal, 438. <i>Lithocubus</i>.</p>
				<p>Six to eight or more columellæ.</p>	<p>{ Two rings unequal, 439. <i>Circotympanum</i>.</p> <p>{ Two rings equal, 440. <i>Eutymppanium</i>.</p>

Subfamily 1. PROTYPANIDA, Haeckel.

Definition.—T y m p a n i d a with two bisected horizontal rings, connected by the complete vertical sagittal ring. (The upper mitral ring and the lower basal ring become divided by the complete primary or sagittal ring into two horizontal symmetrical gates, two mitral gates on the apical and two basal gates on the basal pole.)

Genus 425. *Protympanium*,¹ Haeckel, 1881, Prodrömus, p. 447 (*sensu emend.*).

Definition.—T y m p a n i d a with two bisected horizontal rings, connected by two vertical columellæ.

The genus *Protympanium* is the most simple form of all Tympanida, and probably the common ancestral form of this family. It arises from *Lithocircus* by the development of two horizontal rings, perpendicular to the primary sagittal ring. The upper or mitral ring arises by lateral union of two pairs of superior branches, the lower or basal ring by union of two pairs of basal branches of the primary vertical ring.

1. *Protympanium primordiale*, n. sp.

Mitral and apical ring of equal size, elliptical, smooth, somewhat smaller than the connecting thorny sagittal ring.

Dimensions.—Diameter of the two horizontal rings 0·12, of the sagittal ring 0·15.

Habitat.—Central Pacific, Stations 263 to 274, at various depths.

¹ *Protympanium* = Primordial drum ; πρωτυμπάνιον.