DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES.

Family SAVAGLIIDÆ, n. n. (GERARDIDÆ, Verrill).

Genus *Savaglia*, Nardo.

Gorgonia (pars), Donati, Lamarck, &c.
Savaglia, Nardo, 1843, Atti 5 Congresso d. sc. ital. in Lucca.
Leiopathes (pars), Gray, Haime, Milne-Edwards, &c.
Antipathes (pars), Lamarck.
Gerardia, Lacaze Duthiers, 1864, Ann. Sci. Nat. (Zool.), sér. 5, t. ii. p. 169.

Parasitic Zoantharia, living mostly on the stems of Muriceidæ and other Gorgonidæ, around which they secrete a black chitinous covering. On this account the mode of branching is not characteristic of the *Savaglia*, but of the species on which it is parasitic. In old specimens, where the chitinous stems extend beyond the Gorgonid base, the growth becomes bushy. Sclerenchyma black, and covered with crateriform papillæ. Polyps cylindrical, having twenty-four tentacles and mesenteries; the tentacles are capable of retraction, in which case the whole polyp assumes a nipple or wart-like appearance. The cœnenchyma contains a series of canals bringing the whole of the blastozooids of a colony into communication through the bases of the interseptal chambers.

Lacaze Duthiers was the first to show the true relations of this form, and its difference from the typical Antipathidæ. Nardo, in 1843, gave the generic name *Savaglia* to the species described as *La Savaglia* by Donati in 1765, which he says is identical with *Leiopathes lamarcki*, Haime; in this case his name has priority over that of *Gerardia*, instituted by Lacaze Duthiers in 1864. This I gather from a more recent paper; I have not seen the original, and do not know if Nardo gave the species a specific, as well as a generic, name; there is no mention of one in his recent publication. I have, therefore, retained the specific name of Haime. Although it seems highly probable that Nardo's *Savaglia* is the same as *Gerardia*, Lacaze Duthiers, his description of the polyp does not agree with Lacaze Duthiers' observations on living specimens. Nardo states that the polyp has only fourteen tentacles, whereas the species in question has twenty-four.