

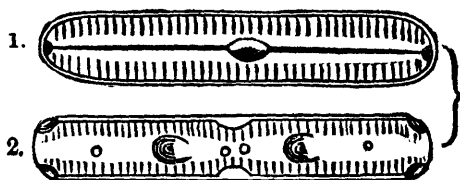
ANIMALCULES, THEIR NATURE, DISTRIBUTION AND INFLUENCE.

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Two stomachs only were visible in the particular specimen under examination, yet it must not be supposed that the *navicula viridis* is limited to two of these organs. In other specimens, many are discoverable, and from their variation in number, size and position, their sudden appearance and disappearance, and apparent isolation from each other, many observers have hesitated to pronounce them stomachs.

The following engravings exhibit the general form of this species of *navicula*, and some of the organs referred to:



In the first engraving the upper surface of the *N. viridis* is represented. No correct idea of the beauty of this animalcule can be gathered from a mere outline, destitute of the rich color and delicate shading of the living specimen. The cut more nearly represents the appearance of the *fossil*, than the living *viridis*.

In the second figure, the side or edge of this animalcule is exhibited. Each side of the centre, the sexual glands are represented in the form of large globular organisms, whilst the smaller circles at the centre and near each extremity in the figure, represent the stomachs referred to. Animated discussions have arisen among microscopists, with reference to the true nature and office of these little *sacs*. Ehrenberg, who has unquestionably devoted more time to the study of animalcules than any other individual, pronounces them stomachs, and his conclusions are based upon observations made whilst these organs were filled with coloring matter. Certain coloring substance of vegetable origin, such as *indigo* and *carmine*, when diffused through water containing the *N. viridis*, are taken into the stomachs of this animalcule, and thus the form and action of these organs are rendered