For a smooth, projective variety $X$, one can parametrize effective divisors of a given numerical class in $X$ by what we call a “divisor variety” which will be a projective scheme. Classically, when $X$ is a curve, the divisor variety is smooth and irreducible, but these properties fail in higher dimension. We study the case when $X$ is the symmetric product of a curve and give a rather complete description of the corresponding divisor varieties, indicating how the new phenomena in this setting relate to the concrete geometry of the underlying curve. (Received August 11, 2020)