

The oral disk is five-lobed, its periphery being delicately sinuated; its upper third is so thickly strewn with small tentacles that it is impossible to determine their number, though we may estimate them at from two to three thousand; they are all very slender, thin-walled, and cæcal; they are largest towards the centre of the disk, and become smaller towards the periphery. Twelve tentacles, which are particularly conspicuous from their size, lie somewhat apart from the rest, nearer the centre of the oral disk, so that they are isolated from the others. They are distributed at equal distances round the oral fissure in such a way that two of them correspond to the corners of the mouth; this mode of distribution leads us to conclude that they belong to the intraseptal spaces of the six pairs of principal septa and the first six pairs of accessory septa. Outside these come thirty-six other tentacles, which make up a circle; twelve of these alternate with the first twelve, the other twenty-four falling between the latter and the former. The thirty-six tentacles can hardly be defined from the peripheral principal mass, because, in the first place, there is hardly any interspace between them, and, in the second place, because they are but slightly superior in size. They belong to the tertiary and quaternary intraseptal spaces. By dissecting the septa, the peripheral mass of small tentacles may also undergo examination, the result of which is to show that they all lie in different radii of the body. We never find more than one tentacle in communication with the same intraseptal space, though such a result seems highly probable on mere superficial examination. All the tentacles belong primarily to a single circle, and have only been forced into different circles by want of space.

The radial muscular system, which in this case also lies in the mesoderm, shows the same characters as those which we have already observed in the circular muscle. The mesoderm is pleated in transverse section, and, in well preserved animals at least, is covered with a layer of radial fibres; the mesodermal bundles of fibrillæ are flattened and placed in rows which begin in the pleating on the surface of the mesoderm and run straight towards the inside. We may say that we have before us deep laterally compressed folds, which fall asunder into numerous bundles of fibrillæ placed one below the other (Pl. X. fig. 12).

The layer of muscle is strongest between two septal insertions, and the mesoderm consequently slightly thickened. In this way radial swellings are formed on the oral disk, which, however, become more perceptible in transverse section than when looked at from the surface of the oral disk, and more perceptible near the tentacles than in the periphery of the mouth.

The oral opening rises slightly like a proboscis above the surface of the oral disk, and forms an oval fissure, one end of which is directed towards one of the points where the margin of the oral disk arches inwards, and the other end to a point where it arches outwards. The two œsophageal grooves are remarkably distinct on the œsophagus, as they are enclosed by high lips, which project like combs, corresponding to which the