

shaped terminally, but simply rounded, or else with a blunt point (Pl. LXI. fig. 9). The node of intersection is frequently thickened, and usually exhibits a slightly projecting tubercle, representing the undeveloped sixth ray. While this sixth ray is undeveloped in the gastralia proper, it appears distinctly on the spicules which serve to support the lining of the efferent canals, and exactly resembles the other five rays. The canalaria are therefore oxyhexacts, and the sixth ray usually projects for a greater or less distance into the lumen of the efferent canals. While they form a continuous layer on the internal surface of the wider canals, they occur more sparsely in the narrower branches, and may finally be altogether absent (Pl. LXI. fig. 3). There are no special marginalia, since the lamellar oscular fringe described above ends in a simple smooth edge.

The stalk demands special notice. Though its structure essentially resembles that of the cup-shaped body, there are several peculiarities worth noting. It is penetrated by several anastomosing longitudinal canals which open above into the gastral cavity of the cup, and receive laterally the short efferent canals of the wall.

The long diacts of the parenchyma have almost exclusively a longitudinal disposition, and are more or less abundantly and firmly united by transverse synaptacula, so that the whole stalk, being penetrated and supported by a continuous and connected framework, is very compact and firm. Only near the external surface, and near the upper end where the stalk joins the cup, are the parenchymal spicules united to a less extent, or not at all. Between the diacts there is a comparatively abundant occurrence of small thick hexacts, which may be isolated, but generally have one or two opposite rays laterally united by a siliceous mass to the long diacts (Pl. LXI. figs. 5, 6).

The degree of amalgamation and connection by means of synaptacula increases from above downwards, so that the basal enlargement is traversed by a dense and stony siliceous framework.

The oxyhexasters which occur so abundantly in the parenchyma of the cup-shaped body are less frequent in the stalk, and are only found in those portions where the union of the spicules by amalgamation or by synaptacula has not occurred to a very marked extent. I have observed that small discohexasters only occur isolated.

The skeleton of the smooth external skin-layer exhibits medium-sized hypodermal pentacts and small rough dermal pentacts or tetracts, with rounded or slightly club-shaped ray-tips, like those which occurred in the dermal skeleton of the cup-shaped body.

On the inner surface of the large longitudinal efferent canals of the stalk, similar roughened pentacts also occur, with rounded or slightly club-shaped ray-tips. These correspond to the pentact gastralialia of the gastral cavity in the superior cup-shaped portion.

This form, which Bowerbank received in 1877 from Dr. A. B. Meyer, and described as an anomalous *Hyalonema*,<sup>1</sup> is not a *Hyalonema*, but certainly *Crateromorpha*

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, p. 461, 1877.