

Group 2. TETRAXONS (Tetraxona).

Megascleres in which growth is directed from an origin in one direction only, along four axes arranged as normals to the faces of a regular tetrahedron.

Forms which are geometrically triaxons, *i.e.*, produced by growth from an origin in one direction along three axes lying in one plane, are regarded as reduced tetraxons.

Group 3. TRIAXONS (Triaxona).

Megascleres in which growth is directed from an origin in both directions along three rectangular axes.

The growth may take place in both directions along each axis, or in one direction only, or along one or more of the axes in one direction and along the remainder in both directions. One or more axes may be suppressed.

Group 4. POLYAXONS (Polyaxona).

Megascleres in which radiate growth from a centre proceeds in several directions.

Group 5. SPHERES (Sphæræ).

Megascleres in which growth is concentric about the origin.

 Group 1. CLASSIFICATION OF THE MONAXONS.

I. Diactine (*diactina*).—A monaxon in which growth proceeds in both directions along the axis. For this the term rhabdus is substituted as a convenient abbreviation.

II. Monactine (*monactina*).—A monaxon in which growth proceeds in one direction only along the axis. For this form the term style (*stylus*) proposed by Vosmaer is substituted.

Modifications of the Rhabdus.

When the rhabdus is arranged within the sponge so that one end is directed centrifugally and the other centripetally, the centrifugal actine is distinguished as the ecactine and the centripetal as the esactine. Both actines may be of similar shape and size, the rhabdus is then isoactinate, or one may be larger than the other, and the rhabdus is anisoactinate. It is seldom possible to discover the position of the origin of the spicule exactly, but the distinction between iso- and aniso-actinate forms is not made unless the difference is obvious.