

the generic distinctions of the group depend, these will be best understood by reference to the accompanying diagrams (Fig. XIV.).

*Skeleton.*—The general arrangement of the megascleres is radial, but to this there are several exceptions, at least in the adult state, for it is probable that in the very young state all the Geodiid species are radiate.

The most marked exceptions among adult Sponges are met with in *Erylus*, *Caminus*, and *Pachymatisma*; in the last named the oxeas are scattered without any trace of order

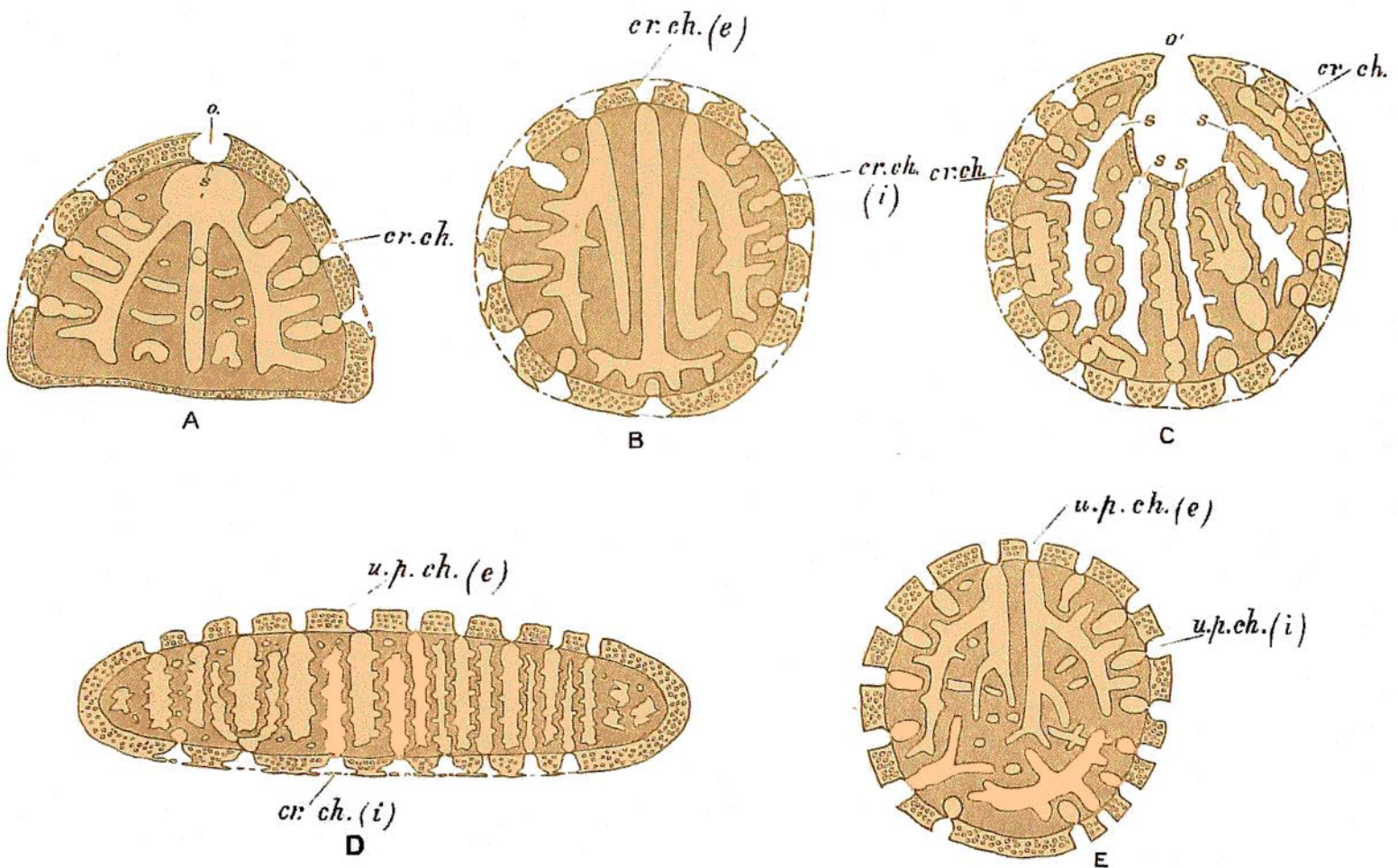


FIG. XIV.—Diagrams of the canal system as distinctive of the genera of Geodiidae. A, *Pachymatisma*; B, *Cydonium*; C, *Geodia*; D, *Synops*; E, *Isops*; *cr.ch.*, cribriporal chones; *u.p.ch.*, uniporal chones; *o.*, oscule; (*i*) incurrent, (*e*) excurrent; *s*, sphincter.

through the Sponge, but the triænes, which are as a rule confined to the neighbourhood of the cortex, are radially disposed; in *Erylus* the arrangement is essentially the same, and it is very similar in *Caminus*, the chief difference lying in the more general aggregation of the oxeas into fibres, which are directed radially near the cortex, but wander without any definite direction elsewhere. In both *Caminus* and *Pachymatisma* the oxeas are frequently cemented together by spongin.