

granules"; whilst another part is colourless or more or less filled up with guanin-crystals ("renal granules"). The uppermost canals (between the pouches of the pneumatocyst) are colourless.

Central Siphon (figs. 1, 2, 3, *sa*).—The large sterile central polypite has the usual form of a thick-walled cylindrical or inversely conical tube. Its dilated base occupies the centre of the subumbrella, and is separated from the centradenia by a thick fulcrum or supporting lamella, the gastrobasal plate; it exhibits a peripheral ring of eight openings, leading into the eight radial main vessels (compare p. 31).

Sexual Siphons (fig. 2, fig. 3, *sx*).—The sixteen peripheral polypites form a regular corona around the base of the large central polypite, and are separated by a circular furrow from the corona of tentacles. They bear numerous gonophores on their thinner basal part, whilst their spindle-shaped distal part opens by a four-lobed mouth (compare p. 37).

Tentacles (figs. 1–3, *t*).—The numerous tentacles form a submarginal corona, which occupies about one-third of the subumbrella. They form six to eight concentric rows, and exhibit a very different length. Seen from above or below the corona presents sixteen elegant rays, each of which is composed of an adradial bunch of larger tentacles. The longest tentacles (in the middle of each radial bunch) surpass the diameter of the umbrella in the contracted spirit specimens, and may be much longer in the living animal. The form and structure of the tentacles, with three rows of cnidospheres, is that which is usual in all Porpitiidæ (compare pp. 38, 39).

Genus 6. *Porpita*,¹ Lamarck, 1816.

Porpita, Lmk., Hist. nat. anim. s. vert., t. ii. p. 483.

Definition.—Porpitiidæ with a flat discoidal umbrella, including a circular discoidal pneumatocyst without marginal lobes. Tentacles very numerous, equally disposed in several concentric circles, not forming radial bunches.

The genus *Porpita* possesses the same flat discoidal umbrella, and the same circular, not radially lobate, pneumatophore, as the preceding genus *Porpitella*; but it differs from the latter in the equal distribution of the tentacles along the whole margin of the umbrella. The tentacles are very numerous, and densely crowded in several parallel circles (as in *Porpema*), and they are not grouped into radial lobes.

The genus *Porpita*, hitherto regarded as the only representative of the family Porpitiidæ, was founded in 1816 by Lamarck upon the first known species, which Forskål had observed in the Mediterranean, and described very accurately as *Holothuria denudata*.² Eschscholtz, the founder of the class Siphonophoræ, in 1829 placed *Porpita* in his family Velellidæ, and gave the following definition:³—"Corpus orbiculare, supra

¹ *Porpita* = Ring of a buckle, *πόρπιτι*.

² 11, p. 103, Taf. 26, fig. L 1.

³ 1, p. 176, Taf. 16.