

They are simple in one family only, the Apolemidæ. In all the other families they bear a series of equidistant lateral branches or tentilla. These are rarely quite simple secondary filaments (*Cirralia*). Usually each tentillum is divided into three portions, a basal pedicle, an intermediate cnidoband, and a terminal filament; this latter is either simple or multiple. The greatest variety of structure and form is exhibited by the middle part, the cnidoband (sacculus, "Nesselknopf"), and this presents the chief characters for the distinction of genera. The basal pedicle is always a simple cylindrical tubule, often dilated or vesicular at the distal end.

The cnidoband or cnidonode (cnidosac, sacculus, "Nesselknopf"), the middle and most important portion of the tentillum, is originally nothing more than a dilatation of the middle part of the simple filiform and tubular tentillum, produced by the unilateral development of larger cnidocysts in its wall. Then follows the dislocation of the central canal, which becomes excentrically placed; next a bilateral form, and soon a spiral twisting of the dilated portion. That side, in which the excentric canal runs, is the ventral side of the cnidoband, the opposite, in which the cnidobattery (or the accumulation of larger cnidocysts) is placed, is the dorsal side. Between them is developed the elastic "angleband," a group of two or four parallel elastic ribands. The excentric canal, also more or less coiled, runs in the axis around which the cnidoband is twisted. The spiral is always a left-handed, or lambdoidal. The cnidocysts which compose the cnidobattery are usually of two kinds, very numerous small and paliform, and a smaller number of large ovate or ensiform thread-cells; the latter are arranged usually in two lateral rows on the proximal part of the cnidobattery.

The spiral cnidoband is usually coiled up in three or four left-handed turnings; but sometimes it makes six to eight turnings or even more. It remains naked, without involucre, in *Athoria* (Pl. XXI. fig. 8), *Halistemma*, the Forskalidæ (Pl. X. fig. 23) and in part of the Anthophysidæ (*Rhodophysa*). In the majority of the Physonectæ there is developed around its proximal end a peculiar involucre, covering it like a cap or hood; it is a solid annular fold of the exoderm, which arises from the distal end of the pedicle and grows distally. Claus maintains that this envelope "evidently corresponds in morphological relation to the umbrella of a Medusa" (74, p. 2); but their likeness is merely external. The involucre is nothing more than a simple protecting mantle for the naked cnidoband. At first it envelops the proximal base only (*Stephanomia*, *Cupulita*, *Anthemodes*, Pl. XV. fig. 11, &c.), but afterwards it grows around the entire cnidoband and envelops it distally as an external capsule. The most complicated structure is exhibited by the involucre in the Discolabidæ; where it often bears a pair of red lateral ocelli (Pl. XX. fig. 14); the convex dorsal side is here so strongly developed, prolonged and much twisted, that the cnidoband is recurved and its distal end placed near the proximal base on the contracted ventral side; the terminal filament becomes reduced in this case and finally disappears.