

Gonodendra.—The corm is monœcious and monoclinic, and bears numerous gonophores of both sexes, densely crowded beyond the corona of palpons, and forming an inner corona around the base of the siphon. At the first glance I supposed that this corona was composed of two large gonodendra only, a male and a female. A closer examination, however, of the well-preserved spirit specimen, informed me that it was composed of eight small gonodendra, four males (fig. 3, *h*) and four females (fig. 3, *f*) alternating. The umbrella is well developed in both sexes, with four radial canals and a ring-canal. Each gynophore contains a single large ovum, each androphore a club-shaped spermarium with a central spadix.

Family XI. ATHORIDÆ, Hæckel, 1888.

Athoridæ, Hkl., System der Siphonophoren, p. 38.

Definition.—Physonectæ monogastricæ without nectophores, with a corona of bracts which surrounds the pneumatophore, and a corona of palpons which surrounds the base of the single siphon and the single tentacle. Pneumatophore without radial pouches.

The family Athoridæ comprises some small, hitherto undescribed Physonectæ, which are in general similar to *Athorybia* or *Anthophysa*, but differ essentially from them in the possession of only a single siphon. They agree with these Anthophysidæ (Family XVII.) in the absence of nectophores, which are replaced by a corona of bracts. On the other hand, they are similar to those well known Athorula-larvæ, or "Athorybia-like larvæ," which are developed from the fertilised egg of certain Physonectæ, especially Agalmidæ. Compare Vogt (6, pl. x. figs. 32–37), Gegenbaur (7, Taf. xvii. fig. 11), Claus (35, p. 557, Taf. xlvi.), Hæckel (84, Tafs. vii., viii., ix., fig. 60), Metschnikoff (85, Tafs. ix., xi.), Fewkes (89, pl. iv.).

The resemblance of the monogastric Athoridæ to these larvæ of polygastric Agalmidæ, and the morphological likeness of their structure, make it probable that the former are either remnants of the ancestral forms of the latter, or that they are larval forms which under certain conditions sometimes attain sexual maturity (Pædogogenesis). A further accurate examination of these interesting small Physonects, and a complete knowledge of their anatomy as well as ontogeny are required to recognise their relations to the other families of this order.

Two different forms of Athoridæ were observed by me in 1881 during my residence in Ceylon. The first and larger, *Athoralia coronula*, was very similar to a small young *Athorybia* (Pls. XI., XII.); it will be described on another occasion. The second and smaller form is described in the sequel as *Athoria larvalis* (Pl. XXI. figs. 5–8); it differs from the former in the possession of a small rudimentary nectosac at the distal