

with an asymmetrical incision, and that the different polymorphous appendages are attached in regular order to the peripheral convex margin of their discoidal sac. This margin is divided by a series of equidistant radial constrictions into a number of roundish polygonal or quadrangular facettes (ten to twenty or more). Each articular facette is surrounded by a prominent muscular wall or frame, and bears a single large palpon with its palpacle, and beyond it is attached a single siphon with its tentacle; in the interval between them is a pair of gonodendra, a proximal female and a distal male. The cormidia are, therefore, perfectly ordinate, and succeed one to another regularly in the subhorizontal ventral median line of the depressed trunk of the siphosome (compare figs. 9 to 13). The observations of Sars (already made in 1857) were twenty years afterwards confirmed and more fully carried out by Claus (in 1878, 74, Taf. iii. figs. 1-4). Moreover, Gegenbaur had already (in 1859) described in *Stephanospira* the spiral twisting of the discoidal inflated trunk, and the regular order in which the siphons and the paired gonodendra (a male and a female) were attached to the peripheral margin of the spiral disc; hence he derived its name. The spiral twisting in the siphosome of all Discolabidæ seems to be dextrotropic, opposite to the læotropic spiral of the nectosome; Claus, who calls the former also læotropic, seems to have confounded the proximal and the distal part of the spiral (74, p. 13).

*Cormidia*.—The numerous ordinate cormidia which compose the siphosome of the Discolabidæ, are disposed along the ventral median line of its trunk not less regularly than in the Apolemidæ and the polygastric Calyconectæ. The only difference is, that the naked internodes are in the latter very long, in the former very short; but they are sharply marked by the limits of the facettes, or the basal insertions of the single groups of medusomes. The effective cause of that difference is the divergent development of the trunk of the siphosome; this is tubular and much prolonged in a vertical direction in the Apolemidæ, as in the Agalmidæ; it is vesicular, much shortened and inflated, and coiled up spirally in a subhorizontal direction in the Discolabidæ, as in the Nectalidæ. The trunk of the latter possesses, therefore, permanently about the same shape which the trunk of the former exhibits only in the state of the strongest contraction.

The composition of the ordinate cormidia is in all the three genera of Discolabidæ essentially the same. Descending from the proximal or apical (superior and external) face of the trunk, towards the distal or basal (inferior and internal) face, we find successively the following parts:—(1) a large palpon with its palpacle; (2) a female gonodendron; (3) a male gonodendron; (4) a large siphon with its tentacle. Sometimes the number of palpons is doubled, so that a pair of them (a larger superior and a smaller inferior) belong to each cormidium; but it seems that this duplication is often accidental, and variable in one and the same species.

*Siphons* (Pl. XX. figs. 13, 16, s).—A single large polypite is attached to the distal side of each cormidium, and occupies therefore the innermost place on the subhorizontal basal