

Polycolpa,¹ Hæckel, 1879.

Peganthidæ with a simple reproductive girdle forming a broad ring in the lower wall of the stomach (with genital cæca in the lobe cavities). Numerous (10 to 30) collar lobes, and the same number of tentacles alternating with them.

Polycolpa is the simplest, and phylogenetically the oldest genus in the family Peganthidæ, that peculiar group of Narcomedusæ which are distinguished by the complete want of the radial canals, and by the formation of a bow-shaped festoon canal. Whilst the most closely related Cunanthidæ have still several true radial canals (in the form of broad pernemal "gastral pouches"), these disappear completely in the Peganthidæ, inasmuch as the strong tentacles by their dorsal change of position occupy the whole of the umbrella margin up to the periphery of the stomach, where they are inserted. The original radial canal (the "gastral pouch") as well as the peronial double canal, undergo retrograde formation; both become lost. The annular canal, however, is divided into the same number of isolated vessels as there are lobes of the umbrella collar. Each horseshoe-shaped lobe canal or bow canal edges the margin of its lobe, and opens at base of the latter immediately into the gastral cavity (beside the insertion of the tentacles) by two separate mouths. The whole gastrovascular system in the Peganthidæ therefore consists only of the flat lens-shaped gastral sac and the circle of isolated lobe canals, each opening with two mouths into the periphery of the stomach. Of the four genera of the Peganthidæ, which are all closely related, *Polycolpa* appears to be the simplest and oldest form, as it has the primitive formation of the genitalia. The simple genital girdle forms a broad undivided ring in the lower or subumbral wall of the stomach. It does not send out cæcal or pouch-like processes into the separate lobe cavities as in the closely related genus *Polyxenia* and in the genera *Pegasia* and *Pegantha*, derived from the latter.

Polycolpa forskalii, Hæckel (Pl. X.).

Polycolpa forskalii, Hæckel, 1879, System der Medusen, p. 328, No. 350.

Umbrella flat and discoid; two to three times as broad as high. Twenty-five lobes, nearly pentagonal; none as long as broad. Genital girdle very broad, occupying nearly the whole lower wall of the stomach. Twenty-five tentacles, three times as long as the radius of the umbrella; 130 to 170 auditory clubs (5 to 7 on each lobe). Horizontal diameter, 20 to 30 mm.; vertical diameter, 8 to 10 mm.

Habitat.—The Indian and Pacific Oceans. I myself observed a living (female) specimen of this species in the Red Sea. It was taken in the tow-net at a depth of above 60 fathoms, and the figures in Plate X. are drawn from it. I recognised, as I

¹ Πολύκολλα, with many curves (at the umbrella margin).