Family, TESSERIDÆ, Hæckel, 1877.

TESSERIDÆ, Hæckel, System der Medusen, 1879, p. 371, taf. xxi.

Stauromedusæ with simple, undivided umbrella margin, without hollow marginal lobes or "arms." Eight principal tentacles (four perradial and four interradial) always present, not transformed into marginal anchors or sense clubs; besides these, sometimes numerous secondary tentacles. Coronal muscle of the umbrella margin circular, not divided into eight isolated marginal muscles. Either an apical process or an umbrella peduncle on the apex of the umbrella.

Sub-family, TESSERANTHIDÆ, Hæckel, 1879.

Free-swimming Tesseridæ, without a stalk, but with an apical process on the cone of the umbrella; with simple solid tentacles without terminal urticating knob.

Tesserantha,[1] Hæckel, 1879.

Tesseridæ, without peduncle, with an apical process and with sixteen simple solid tentacles without terminal urticating knob (four perradial, four interradial and eight adradial). The genus *Tesserantha* is one of the simplest and oldest Medusæ forms of that important family the Tesseridæ, which are to be regarded as the general ancestral group of all Acraspedæ. This primitive Acraspeda form is essentially merely a Scyphostoma with sixteen tentacles which, in adapting itself to a free-swimming mode of life, changed its oral disc into a subumbrella, and its basal peduncle into an apical process, divided the peripheric gastral space into four radial pouches by four interradial fused knobs, and became sexually mature in this form. *Tesserantha* is distinguished from the octonemal closely related *Tessera* by the addition of eight new adradial tentacles (of the third order) to the eight principal tentacles (four perradial and four interradial). Moreover, whilst in *Tessera* only four simple gastral filaments run out from the four septal knobs, as terminal free processes of the four interradial tæniola, the septal knobs in *Tesserantha* are beset with a double row of filaments throughout the greater part of their length (the proximal basal part alone excepted). In this and other respects, namely in the formation of four perradial mesogonial folds and four interradial funnel cavities alternating with these, *Tesserantha* comes nearer *Depastrella*, and therefore forms an interesting transition gradation between *Tessera* and *Depastrella*. At present there is only one known species of this genus, the deep-sea Medusa described below.

[1] *Tesserantha*, four-sided flower.