

ventrally below the mouth; on the contrary they completely surround the mouth, dorsally and ventrally, without being in any way continued on to the fin. Their disposition recalls, especially in the young specimens, that of *Peracelis*.

The two tentacles are absolutely symmetrical, and the right one is not enclosed in a sheath. The penis is situated on the dorsal surface of the head, in the median line in the adult.

The orientation of these animals is given but unsatisfactorily in malacological descriptive works. This is especially true, as we shall see, of *Cymbulia*, and is due to the marked external difference between the Cymbuliidæ and the other Thecosomata.

From a systematic point of view the family is yet more unsatisfactorily known than even the Limacinidæ. For the shell of the adult Cymbuliidæ not only has a morphological import different from that of the other Thecosomata, but is also different structurally, and does not admit of being preserved in the dry state. In consequence of which it has received but little attention from the "dry-skin philosophers"; and as in the general systematic treatment of Mollusca, at least as regards genera and species, the conchologists have the upper hand, the result is that our knowledge of the systematic relations of this group is in a rudimentary state, and that the information we possess of the animals is of a most restricted and incomplete character.

It is very unfortunate that the materials as yet at command have not enabled me to make any great progress. I can only interpret more clearly the known facts, correct certain errors, and complete or elucidate certain observations.

The generic names hitherto applied to the forms in this family are four in number:—*Corolla*, *Cymbulia*, *Gleba*, and *Tiedemannia*. Of these four names, two, namely *Corolla* and *Tiedemannia*, are, as we shall afterwards see, synonymous with *Gleba*. There only remain *Cymbulia* and *Gleba* to take account of.

But to distribute the different species of Cymbuliidæ between these two genera, and to determine their respective boundaries, is no easy task, especially with the slight utilisable material at command. This difficulty is increased by the fact that we have shells without animals and animals without shells, and that the latter have been described as naked, while in reality all the adult members of this family possess the so-called "cartilaginous" pseudoconch.

If we survey the different specific titles given to forms referred to the Cymbuliidæ, we find, in addition to the four names of genera, the following seventeen names of species:—

*Cymbulia calceola*, Verrill.  
*Cymbulia cirroptera*, Gegenbaur.  
*Cymbulia norfolkensis*, Quoy and  
 Gaimard.

*Cymbulia ovata*, Quoy and Gaimard.  
*Cymbulia peroni*, de Blainville.  
*Cymbulia proboscidea*, Gray.  
*Cymbulia punctata*, Quoy and Gaimard.