

one end to the summit of the capsule, and thence tapers away to a point where it is continued into the fine filament which is now seen to have uncoiled and extended itself, often to a great length, over the field of the microscope.

F. E. Schulze¹ called attention to the occurrence of a fine process which in *Syncoryne* proceeds from the base of the cnidocyst towards the deeper parts of the ectoderm. Somewhat later² I described in *Myriothela* a remarkable modification of the thread-cell, which among other peculiarities is distinguished by the presence of a peduncle in the form of a long slender filament which is attached to the base of the cnidocyst, and thence extends among the cells of the ectoderm towards the deeper parts of this layer. These peduncles are manifestly of the same nature as those described by F. E. Schulze in *Syncoryne*. They may be designated by the name of *cnidopods*.

Similar filaments have since been described by Grobben,³ Ciamician,⁴ and especially by Hamann,⁵ who finds them in every Hydroid he has examined, and in all thread-cells, both large and small. He traces them through the thickness of the ectoderm as far as the mesosarc to which he believes them to be attached, and regards them as simply performing the part of mechanical supports of the thread-cells. He finds quite the same condition in the thread-cells of the tentacles of all craspedote Medusæ, and in the Siphonophora; also in *Actinia*, where these filaments had been already described by O. and R. Hertwig.⁶

The cnidopods have also been described by Jickeli,⁷ who has subjected them to a careful study in several Hydroids. He regards them as muscular, describes in them a tendency to fibrillation, and believes that he has seen them in various states of extension and contraction. This view of the muscular nature of the cnidopods receives support from an observation by Claus,⁸ who in a Medusa, *Charybdæa marsupialis*, describes thread-cells from which muscular fibrillæ are sent off, and is further supported by an observation which we owe to Chun,⁹ who has seen in the Siphonophora thread-cells which are clothed by a plexus of very fine muscular fibrillæ which become united below into a stalk. Notwithstanding those facts, however, it does not seem that evidence has yet been adduced which would justify us in accepting as proved the muscular nature of the cnidopods.

As already mentioned, Kleinenberg describes in *Hydra* cells which lie superficially in the ectoderm, and send off from their deep surface tail-like prolongations which become

¹ F. E. Schulze, Ueber den Bau von Syncoryne Sarsii, 1873.

² On the Structure and Development of Myriothela, *Phil. Trans.*, vol. clxv.

³ C. Grobben, Über Podocoryne carnea, *Sitzungsb. d. k. Akad. d. Wiss. Wien*, 1875.

⁴ J. Ciamician, Über den feineren Bau und die Entwicklung von Tubularia, *Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool.*, Bd. xxxii.

⁵ O. Hamann, *loc. cit.*

⁶ O. und R. Hertwig, Die Actinien, 1879.

⁷ Carl F. Jickeli, *loc. cit.*

⁸ C. Claus, Untersuchungen über Charybdæa marsupialis, *Arb. Zool. Inst. Wien*, Bd. i.

⁹ C. Chun, Die Natur und Wirkungsweise der Nesselzellen bei Cœlenteraten, *Zool. Anzeiger*, No. 99.