

Sexual Siphons (*sx*, figs. 2-5).—A great number of sexual polypites, densely crowded and arranged in four to five concentric rings, occupies the broad basal zone of the subumbrella, between the central siphon and the corona of tentacles; their number may be between sixty and ninety in the smaller, two hundred to three hundred in the larger specimens. The form of these contractile gonostyles is very variable, usually spindle-shaped or pear-shaped. The large sterile central siphon is eight to nine times as long and five to six times as broad as each of the small fertile peripheral siphons. Their mouth is small and exhibits eight radial lappets. The basal part is densely beset with medusiform gonophores.

Tentacles (figs. 2-4, *t*).—The corona of tentacles occupies a broad equatorial zone, nearly half the height of the entire subumbrella. After removal of the tentacles (fig. 3) this zone appears as a convex elegantly reticulated girdle, the concave inside of which embraces the inferior half of the campanulate pneumatocyst (fig. 4, *p*). Each rhomboidal mesh of the reticulum is the basal insertion of one tentacle. There are eight to ten transverse rows of tentacles, one alternating with the other, and each row represents a ring composed of fifty to sixty tentacles, so that their whole number may be four hundred to six hundred. The length of the longest (in the middle zone) surpasses the greatest diameter of the umbrella, whilst the length of those placed in the superior and inferior rows decreases towards the limits of the tentacular zone. The tentacles are slender cylindrical filaments, club-shaped at the distal end, and beset with three rows of cnidospheres (compare above, pp. 38, 39).

Subfamily 2. PORPITELLIDÆ, Haeckel.

Genus 5. *Porpitella*,¹ Haeckel, 1888.

Porpitella, Hkl., System der Siphonophoren, p. 30.

Definition.—Porpitiidæ with a flat discoidal umbrella, including a circular discoidal pneumatocyst without marginal lobes. Tentacles numerous, arranged in eight or sixteen prominent radial bunches.

The genus *Porpitella* and the following *Porpita* together make up the subfamily Porpitiellidæ, characterised by a discoidal or slightly vaulted umbrella, which includes a discoidal pneumatocyst, the distal margin of the latter being circular, not divided into radial lobes. The numerous marginal tentacles in *Porpitella* are arranged in eight or sixteen regularly disposed radial bunches, whilst in *Porpita* they are equally distributed along the margin of the umbrella.

The new genus *Porpitella* is founded for those species, formerly placed among *Porpita*, which are distinguished by the possession of sixteen radial bunches of marginal

¹ *Porpitella* = Small ring of a buckle, diminutive of *Porpita*.