

pierced by eight openings which conduct into the eight primary radial vessels, arising from the original manubrium of the Medusa. The thick wall of the central siphon exhibits eight strong radial longitudinal folds, and its slender proboscis has eight lips around the terminal mouth (figs. 3, 5, *so*).

Gonostyles (figs. 2, 3, 5, *gs*).—The sexual siphons, sixteen in number, form an elliptical corona around the central siphon and separate it from the tentacular zone and the mantle-border. Their slender cylindrical basal part bears clusters of medusiform gonophores, whilst their dilated spindle-shaped distal part opens by a four-lobed mouth.

Tentacles (figs. 1–5, *t*).—The sixteen tentacles form an outer corona around the inner corona of gonostyles, and alternate regularly with the insertions of the latter. They are simple, cylindrical, very contractile, and beset with two opposite rows of cnidoblasts.

Genus 8. *Verella*,¹ Lamarck, 1816.

Verella, Lmk., Hist. nat. anim. sans vert., t. ii. p. 481.

Definition.—Velellidæ with an elliptical or slightly quadrangular (parallelogram-shaped) umbrella, and a vertical triangular sail, placed obliquely in a diagonal line of the ellipse. Margin of the umbrella not lobate. Pneumatocyst discoidal, of the same form as the surrounding umbrella, with a vertical chitinous crest supporting the sail. Submarginal corona of tentacles simple.

The genus *Verella* is, next to *Physalia*, the oldest and best known form of all Siphonophoræ, since it is generally distributed in all warmer seas, often very common, and in some countries used as food. Owing to its striking form and sailing movement it is well known to the fishermen. The Italian naturalists Ferrante Imperato (1599) and Columna (1616) mention it under the names *Vela* or *Verella*, Carburius (1757) and Dana (1776) under the names *Armenista* or *Armenistarion*. The first good description and figure were given in 1776 by the excellent Swedish naturalist Forskål;² he named the Mediterranean species *Holothuria spirans*. Afterwards Lamarck erected the genus *Verella* with three species (the Mediterranean *Verella limbosa*, the North Atlantic *Verella mutica*, and the South Atlantic *Verella scaphidia*). Eschscholtz³ in his fundamental work described ten different species, and Lesson⁴ as many as sixteen. But the greater part of these descriptions are worthless and quite insufficient, since they are founded only upon the different coloration and other characters of little value (for example, the different direction of the sail).

Two species of *Verella* only are hitherto completely known; the Mediterranean *Verella spirans*, very accurately described by Kölliker⁵ and by Vogt,⁶ and the North Atlantic *Verella mutica* by Alexander Agassiz.⁷

¹ *Verella* = Diminutive of *Vela*, sailing-boat.

² 11, Taf. xxvi. fig. K.

³ 1, p. 168, Taf. xv.

⁴ 3, p. 563.

⁵ 4, p. 46, Taf. xi. figs. 9–15.

⁶ 6, pls. i, ii.

⁷ 57, pls. i.–vi.