

organs possess essentially the same structure as in the preceding Eudoxidæ. The bract occurs only in two forms, one of which (*Lilæa*) is equal to that of *Praya*, or *Lilyopsis*; it is rounded and has a phyllocyst with four radial canals; the other (*Ersæa*) is similar to that of *Muggiæa* or *Diphyes*; it is pointed, cucullate or spathiform, and has a simple phyllocyst, without radial canals.

Gonophores.—The sexual medusomes of the Ersæidæ have the same form and structure as those of the Eudoxidæ; and mainly of those species, where two or more gonophores are produced in a single cormidium (compare above, pp. 100 and 121).

The special nectophore, which is characteristic of the Ersæidæ, and distinguishes them from the Eudoxidæ, has been originally the first gonophore. This has completely lost its manubrium, and has, therefore, given up its sexual function; it has been developed merely as an organ of swimming.

Ontogeny.—On the development of the Ersæidæ, compare above, pp. 100–102.

Synopsis of the Genera of Ersæidæ.

Bract spathiform, with an apex. Phyllocyst simple, without radial canals,	17A. <i>Ersæa</i> .
Bract rounded, without apex. Phyllocyst with four radial canals,	17B. <i>Lilæa</i> .

Genus 17A. *Ersæa*,¹ Eschscholtz, 1829.

Ersæa, Eschscholtz, System der Acalephen, p. 127.

Definition.—Ersæidæ with a campanulate or spathiform bract, divided by a collar constriction into a proximal cowl, with an apical point, and a distal mantle, with a wide ventral fissure. Phyllocyst large, simple, without radial canals. (Cormidia of the genus *Diphyopsis*.)

The genus *Ersæa* was founded by Eschscholtz, in 1829, to include two Atlantic monogastric Diphyidæ, differing from *Eudoxia* in the possession of a special nectophore, which is prominent from the cavity of the bract ("Tubulus suctorius unicus; pars corporis nutritoria cavitate parva natatoria, tubuli instar prominenti instructa"). The two species, however, which Eschscholtz there described (*Ersæa quoyi* and *Ersæa gaimardi*),² are too incompletely represented to determine with certainty their position and their connection with any species of *Diphyopsis*. Possibly *Ersæa gaimardi* may be the free cormidium of *Diphyopsis campanulifera*, and *Ersæa bojani* (= *Eudoxia bojani*, Eschscholtz), the cormidium of *Diphyopsis dispar*. I myself observed in 1866, in the Canary Island Lanzerote, numerous free-swimming specimens of the species figured in Pl. XXXIV. as *Ersæa compressa*, and afterwards recognised its ontogenetic connection with *Diphyopsis compressa* (Pl. XXXIII.).

¹ *Ersæa* = ἰρσαῖα, covered with dew.

² 1, p. 128, Taf. xii. figs. 3, 4.