

them in the possession of numerous (four to six or more) nectophores, arranged in a biserial nectosome similar to that of *Hippopodius* and *Polyphyes*.

A single specimen only of this genus was captured by me during my voyage through the Indian Ocean, between the Maldivé Islands and Socotra, in March 1882. But unfortunately it was injured during capture, and decomposed before I could make a sketch of it. The general appearance and the form of nectophores and bracts were similar to the figure which Fewkes published in 1880 as "the young of *Praya cymbiformis*."<sup>1</sup> But instead of two opposite nectophores there were four present, the superior pair somewhat smaller than the inferior. The cormidia, fifteen to twenty or more, succeeded on the stem of the siphosome nearly without intervals, so that the helmet-shaped bracts covering one another formed a continuous series of scales, whence I called this species provisionally *Desmalia imbricata*. A fragment of a similar siphosome was found in a bottle from the Challenger collection, taken in the South Pacific (Station 165). The structure of the cormidia, and mainly the form of the helmet-shaped bract (with four radial canals), was similar to that of *Praya galea* (Pl. XXXII.). Each eudoxiform cormidium contained on the ventral side of the siphon a single gonophore with well-developed umbrella and a small ovarium. All the cormidia were female.

Genus 32B. *Desmophyes*,<sup>2</sup> Haeckel, 1888.

*Desmophyes*, Hkl., System der Siphonophoren, p. 36.

*Definition*.—Desmophyidæ with rounded edgeless nectophores, arranged in a biserial nectosome. Each cormidium provided with a small special nectophore.

The genus *Desmophyes* is closely related to the preceding *Desmalia*, but differs from it in the possession of a special nectophore on each cormidium, and by the reduction of the umbrella of the gonophores. It agrees in these characters with *Lilyopsis*, and has the same relation to this Diphyid genus as *Desmalia* bears to *Praya*.

The only species of *Desmophyes* which I observed, and which is described in the sequel, agrees with some species of *Lilyopsis*, not only in the general composition of the cormidia, but also in the special form of their component parts. The special nectophore of each cormidium bears on the margin of the medusiform umbrella a number of ocelli and a corona of rudimentary tentacles (almost as in *Lilyopsis medusa*, &c.). Whilst the subumbrella is strongly developed in these special nectophores, it is reduced in the gonophores, which possess a long prominent manubrium. Each cormidium has a number of buds besides the mature gonophore.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. vi. No. 7, p. 146, pl. iii. fig. 2.

<sup>2</sup> *Desmophyes* = Chain-like animal, δέσμος, φύσις.