

a phylogenetic point of view, represent the older and simpler forms of Auronectæ. They resemble the Circalidæ in many respects (Pl. XXI. figs. 1-4); and especially the mono-gastric *Auronula* (Pl. VII. fig. 50) may be compared to *Circalia*. This latter, however, possesses no trace of the aurophore. The central axial canal of the Stephalidæ (Pl. VII. fig. 40, *ca*) and its distal mouth (*ao*) are of special interest, as comparable on one hand with the terminal protosiphon in the basal cormidium of the Physalidæ, and on the other hand with the central sterile siphon of the Disconnectæ. By the thickening of its wall, and the development of anastomosing nutritive canals in this, arises the characteristic trunk of the Auronectæ. Its terminal mouth remains permanently open in the Stephalidæ.

Synopsis of the Genera of Stephalidæ.

Corona of nectophores simple. All tentacles simple, of the same size and form,	62a. <i>Stephalia</i> .
Corona of nectophores double or multiple. A corona of proximal tentacles, annulated, much larger than the simple distal tentacles,	62b. <i>Stephonalia</i> .

Genus 62a. *Stephalia*,¹ Hæckel, 1888.

Stephalia, Hkl., System der Siphonophoren, p. 43.

Definition.—Stephalidæ with a simple corona of nectophores, arranged in a single circle. Tentacles simple, all of the same form and equal size.

The genus *Stephalia* (Pl. VII.) is the simplest and oldest (phylogenetically) among the four different genera of Auronectæ which I have examined. Its corona of nectophores is simple, as in *Auralia* and *Circalia* (Pl. XXI. figs. 1-4), all the nectophores being placed in one horizontal plane. The tentacles are simple, cylindrical, not annulated filaments, all of equal size and similar form. The gonodendra (Pl. VII. fig. 49), which, however, in the specimens examined were not fully developed, are smaller than in *Stephonalia*, and seem to want the large gonopalpon characteristic of that genus.

Stephalia corona, n. sp. (Pl. VII.).

Habitat.—North Atlantic, in the depth of the eastern Gulf Stream.

Færoe Channel and Shetland Islands, August 22 and 24, 1882; depth, 640 and 516 fathoms ("Triton" Expedition, Dr. John Murray).

Corm.—Four different specimens of this interesting species were examined by me, all preserved in rather good condition. One of the corms (fig. 39, in profile; fig. 40, in

¹ *Stephalia* = Sea-ring, στήφαλος, ἄλιος.