

polygastric Siphonanthæ the cormidia are lateral, originally metameric branches of a segmented trunk or jointed stem. This appears, however, in very varied form, as the cormidia occur in distinct order or irregularly scattered and dissolved.

ORDINATE CORMIDIA.

In most polygastric Siphonanthæ (and therefore in the great majority of now existing genera of Siphonophoræ) the cormidia are ordinate, that is, regularly arranged as the metameres of the jointed stem or corm axis; the internodes, or regular intervals of the stem between each two cormidia, are often quite free, especially in much elongated corms, as for instance in almost all polygastric Calyconectæ, in a number of the Physonectæ (Apolemidæ, many Agalmidæ) and of the Cystonectæ (Salacidæ, many Rhizophysidæ). Not unfrequently in these stocks the elongated stem is so strikingly jointed by the annular strictures separating the internodes at equal intervals, that the uniform and all-pervading metameric structure of the Articulata is quite equalled. This comparison is the more permissible, since the apical portion of the stem (representing the head) is distinguished by the higher morphological differentiation of its group of persons. The poly-organ theory might conceive these regularly jointed forms as *Siphonophoræ articulata* in contrast to the others or *Siphonophoræ inarticulata*. But even when the stem is much shortened and the cormidia so closely compressed that the internodes are hardly distinguishable, the cormidia are often arranged with great regularity in a compressed spiral row, as in the Discolabidæ and Rhodalidæ. In others, and often in nearly related forms, the regular arrangement disappears, and gradually passes into the scattered disposition of *Cormidia dissoluta*.

DISSOLVED CORMIDIA.

While in the majority of polygastric Siphonanthæ the corms are distinctly articulate, and the cormidia are arranged in regular succession, this original arrangement is more or less lost in one portion of this group, and in some entirely. The dissolution usually begins in this way, that the siphons and gonophores belonging to one cormidium separate; the latter bud off directly from the stem, often regularly alternating with the first, as in *Polyphyes* among the Calyconectæ, in *Linophysa*, *Nectophysa*, *Rhizophysa*, among the Cystonectæ, and in many Agalmidæ among the Physonectæ. In consequence of further dissolution of the stem arrangement, the palpons and the bracts also lose connection with the cormidia, and bud out directly from the stem, as in several Agalmidæ and Forskalidæ. Finally the ordinate arrangement is quite lost, and the entire stem exhibits hundreds or thousands of different appendages (siphons, palpons, gonophores, bracts, &c.) in irregular grouping, so that it is impossible to distinguish