

composed of four equidistant simple radial canals (*nr*), which arise from the distal or abaxial end of the primary peduncular canal, run in the subumbrella to the margin of the jelly-bell, and are there united by a circular canal (*nc*), placed above the insertion of the velum (*v*). Compare Pl. VII. figs. 39, 48.

*Truncus*.—The common stem of the corm, or the cœnosarc, exhibits in the Auronectæ a most remarkable form and structure, very different from that of all other Siphonophoræ. It is a large solid bulb of a cartilaginous consistence, sometimes subspherical (Pl. IV. fig. 15, *a*), at other times more spindle-shaped or truncately conical (Pl. VII. fig. 40, *a*). Its size is usually about equal to or double that of the pneumatophore. The solid mass of the cartilaginous trunk is structureless and colourless, hyaline, very similar to the hyaline fundamental substance of common cartilage. It is traversed everywhere by a dense network of innumerable small canals, anastomosing one with another, and with the large hypocystic cavity (Pl. V. fig. 24, *ac*). The network is very similar to that in the fleshy cœnosarc of the common *Alcyonium*; but the numerous asteroidal connective cells, which are scattered in the fundamental substance of this latter between the vessels, are wanting in the Auronectæ; exceptionally here a few mesenchymatous entoderm-cells step out from the vessels and remain isolated in the fundamental substance. The network of these nutritive vessels or gastro-canals forms on the surface of the trunk a superficial net, from which the canals of the cormidia arise. The entodermal epithelium which lines the canals is composed of high cylindrical cells, forming a single layer (Pl. V. fig. 29).

The Stephalidæ (*Stephalia*, Pl. VII. fig. 40) differ from the larger Rhodalidæ (*Rhodalia*, Pl. IV. fig. 15) in the possession of a wide, cylindrical, central canal (*ca*), which descends vertically in the main axis of the turnip-shaped trunk and opens at its distal pole by a mouth. This terminal mouth is sometimes much larger than the mouth-openings of all the other siphons (Pl. VI. figs. 32, 33, *ap*). There can be no doubt in my opinion that this important axial canal is the gastral cavity of the protosiphon, or the primary siphon of the larva, which is the manubrium of the original medusome. Its distal opening is the original Medusa-mouth. This explanation becomes evident by the comparison with the youngest larva observed (*Auronula*, Pl. VII. fig. 50). The entire siphosome is here represented by the single primary siphon. By thickening of its wall and development of nutritive canals in it arises the vascular bulbous trunk of the Auronectæ. It corresponds to the basal protosiphon at the distal end of the Physalidæ, and to the sterile central siphon of the Disconnectæ.

*Cormidia*.—The entire surface of the bulbous trunk beyond the corona of nectophores is in all Auronectæ densely covered with numerous cormidia. Their number is in the smaller Stephalidæ twenty to fifty or more, in the larger Rhodalidæ sixty to eighty, often more than one hundred, or even several hundreds. The cormidia are always monogastric and originally ordinate, arranged in regular circles or spiral coils