The buds or the secondary sporosacs contain either a single large ovum or a group of several small ovules; they have usually a long pedicle, and its canal arises from the base of the primary spadix.

The different remarkable modifications of gonophores here enumerated, exhibited in the adult spirit specimens examined, showed no regular distribution, but occurred in very variable number and association. A further accurate research on living and well-preserved specimens is required to make out their mutual relations and signification.

Ontogeny.—The development of the Auronectæ is quite unknown, but will probably offer interesting and valuable facts which explain the natural affinities of this interesting order. Among the few spirit specimens of *Stephalia corona* which I discovered in the collection of the "Triton" Expedition (1882), kindly forwarded by Dr. John Murray, two specimens exhibited gonodendra (Pl. VII. figs. 48, 49), whilst a third specimen possessed no trace of them (Pl. VII. figs. 39, 40). A very small medusome, found in the same bottle (Pl. VII. fig. 50), is probably a young larva of this *Stephalia*. This medusome is composed of a pneumatophore (*pa*), an aurophore (*l*), a siphon (*s*), and a simple tentacle (*td*). Unfortunately this larva (*Auronula*) was not well preserved, which prevented further accurate examination.

Synopsis of the Families of Auronectæ.

Trunk of the siphosome with a permanent central canal and a distinct primary mouth.
Tentacles simple, without tentilla, ... 18. Stephalidæ.
Trunk of the siphosome without permanent central canal and distinct primary mouth.
Tentacles branched, with a series of tentilla, ... 19. *Rhodalidæ*.

Family XVIII. STEPHALIDÆ, Haeckel, 1888.

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

Definition.—Auronectæ with a permanent central canal in the axis of the bulbous trunk, opening at the basal pole by the permanent primary mouth. Tentacles simple, filiform, without lateral branches.

The family Stephalidæ comprises the smaller and inferior forms of Auronectæ, with simple tentacles and a central permanent protosiphon, opening on the basal pole of the vertical axis by a permanent primary mouth. I was able to exami accurately only two genera and species of this interesting family, *Stephalia corona* (Pl. VII.) and *Stephonalia bathyphysa* (Pl. VI.).

The general composition of the corm, the structure of the nectosome and the siphosome, and the form of the single organs composing them, have been described above (p. 281). It is only necessary to add here the remark, that the Stephalidæ, regarded from