

*Desmophyes annectens*, n. sp. (Pl. XXX.).

*Habitat*.—Indian Ocean, south coast of Ceylon, December 1881 (Haeckel).

*Nectosome* (fig. 1).—The swimming column was composed, in the only specimen observed, of six nectophores arranged in two opposite series. The two uppermost nectophores were half as large as the two lowermost, and the two bells of the second pair placed between them, intermediate in size. Each of the two largest inferior nectophores had a length of 15 mm. and a breadth of 10 mm., and the entire biserial nectosome was about 30 mm. long and 18 mm. broad.

*Nectophores*.—The swimming-bells are on the whole very similar to those of *Praya galea*, their jelly soft and delicate, the surface smooth and rounded, without edges. The form is obliquely campanulate or mitriform, the apical part rounded, the basal part with the ostium obliquely truncate.

The dorsal (outer or abaxial) face of each nectophore is convex and smoothly rounded, as is also the lateral face. The ventral face, however (turned to the common axis of the stem), is concave and forms two parallel, longitudinal, prominent wings, which embrace a hemicylindrical groove. The ventral grooves of each two opposite nectophores are so fitted one into another that they form together a cylindrical canal. This axial tube, tapering towards the apex, is the hydrœcial canal, which encloses the superior part of the common stem; the contracted siphosome may be partly retracted into it.

Each nectophore is attached to the common stem by means of a short pedicle, a vertical triangular lamella, which arises by a broad base from the upper third of the ventral groove, and is fixed at its apex to the uppermost part of the stem. The pedicle encloses the peduncular canal which connects the stem-cavity with the nectosac.

*Nectosac*.—The inferior basal or distal half of each nectophore is occupied by the muscular subumbrella, which has an obliquely campanulate form. Its basal mouth is wide, and surrounded by a broad velum. The four radial canals of the subumbrella are of different lengths, the two lateral canals (right and left) being larger than the ventral (or axial) canal, and smaller than the dorsal (or abaxial) canal. They unite at the base of the velum by a circular marginal canal, and this is beset with eight red pigment spots or ocelli, similar to those in the special nectophores of the cormidia. Four of them are placed perradially (at the distal end of the four radial canals) and four others interradially (between the former). There are no rudimentary tentacles on the margin of the umbrella; these are peculiar to the special nectophores.

The superior, apical or proximal, half of the nectophore contains two canals which are placed in its sagittal plane. The peduncular canal, which arises from the canal of the common stem in its uppermost part, enters by the triangular pedicle of the nectophore in its jelly-substance, and descends obliquely in a curve towards the apex of the subumbrella,