

description of a North Atlantic species, *Physophora borealis*, was published in 1877 by Sars (27, Heft iii. Taf. v., vi.). At present it is not possible to distinguish exactly the different species of *Physophora* described by numerous authors; a far more accurate anatomical description of the various parts and their arrangement, and a comparison of good figures drawn from nature, is indispensable to render specific distinction possible. Since the genus is not rare, and widely distributed over all seas, it is probably represented by numerous "geographical species."

Genus 56. *Discolabe*,¹ Eschscholtz, 1829 (s. str.):

Discolabe, Esch., System der Acalephen, p. 155.

Definition.—Discolabidæ with a quadriserial nectosome, composed of four cruciate rows of nectophores. (Siphosome with a single corona of palpons.)

The genus *Discolabe* was established in 1829 by Eschscholtz for a Mediterranean Physonect, which was described and figured very incompletely by Quoy and Gaimard under the name *Rhizophysa discoidea* (20, Isis, Bd. xxi. Taf. iv. fig. 7). The same authors called it afterwards *Physophora discoidea* (2, p. 59, pl. i. figs. 21–24). No doubt this Mediterranean form represents some Physophorid or Discolabid, the nectophores of which were detached from the stem; probably either *Physophora hydrostatica* (Forskål, 11, p. 119) or *Physophora tetrasticha* (Philippi, 72). This latter possesses four cruciate rows of nectophores and differs generically from the former (with two opposite rows of nectophores). *Physophora tetrasticha* may, therefore, retain the name *Discolabe mediterranea*, given by Eschscholtz. Another closely allied species, taken in the North Atlantic (in the Gulf Stream), may be called *Discolabe tetrasticha*. A third species, *Discolabe quadrigata*, inhabits the Indian Ocean, and was observed living by me during my residence in Belligemma, in December 1881. It is described in the following pages, and figured in Pls. XIX. and XX. Some incomplete but well-preserved corms, taken in the Indian Ocean, which I received from Captain Rabbe (of Bremen), seem to belong to the same species.

Discolabe quadrigata, n. sp. (Pls. XIX., XX.).

Habitat.—Indian Ocean, Ceylon (Belligemma), December 1881 (Haeckel).

Nectosome (figs. 1–4).—The swimming apparatus has the form of a slender tetragonal pyramid, which is twice as high as broad; its height is 40 mm., the basal breadth 20 mm. It is composed of an ovate apical pneumatophore, and of four longitudinal rows of nectophores, which are arranged around the axial trunk in a læotropic spiral. Each

¹ *Discolabe* = Discoidal noose or spiral, δίσκος, λαβή.