

structure does not justify the supposition that the auricles are strictly homologous to the marginal tentacles of the Discophoræ; but, at the same time, it should not be overlooked that they are a prolongation of the ambulacral tubes of their spheromeres, and to that extent they bear homological relations to the marginal tentacles of the Discophoræ.

Remote as the comparison may seem, it cannot be doubted, upon reflection, that the simple radiating tubes of the naked-eyed Medusæ and those of the medusoid individuals of the Siphonophoræ are strictly homologous to the ambulacral tubes of the Ctenophoræ, as they are also to those of the Discophoræ proper. Their number generally coincides in the Ctenophoræ and higher Discophoræ, though there are only four in the Siphonophoræ and most Hydroids proper. Sometimes they are, however, very numerous in the latter, as we frequently find an indefinite repetition of identical parts in the lowest representatives of almost every type.

We have already seen that the peripheric branches of the chymiferous system do not open outward, as Ehrenberg and Milne-Edwards supposed; but there are, unquestionably, openings in its axial prolongation, in Ctenophoræ, which have generally been considered as anal apertures. Milne-Edwards has accurately described them in *LeSueuria*, and they have been observed by all later investigators. Lesson alone has mistaken accidental openings in the circumscribed area for structural features. There can be no doubt of his mistake, since he describes those holes in the Beroids proper as surrounded by fringes, while the position of the natural openings of the abactinal pole of the Ctenophoræ is outside of the area, as well as outside of the fringes which encircle it. In all the Ctenophoræ which I have examined, I have invariably found two such openings, in an excentric position, one on one side and the other on the other side of the antero-posterior diameter, and obliquely opposite to one another. Gegenbaur states that there is only one such opening in the species which he has examined with reference to this point. It is much to be regretted that he should not have mentioned its position; for if the opening which he saw was excentric, as I have always found these openings to be, I should infer, that while he saw one gaping and shutting, the opposite one may have remained closed, as it sometimes does for a considerable length of time. Gegenbaur further affirms that water may be admitted into the system through that opening. I have only seen the openings gaping to discharge parts of the contents of the funnel, and never observed an inward current of the surrounding medium. But whether these holes are simply discharging openings, or at the same time afferent apertures also, it is equally important to consider their relations to the whole system more fully than has generally been done.

The Ctenophoræ are very greedy, and do not spare their own kindred; but, generally, they feed on different kinds of Aculephs and a variety of small marine