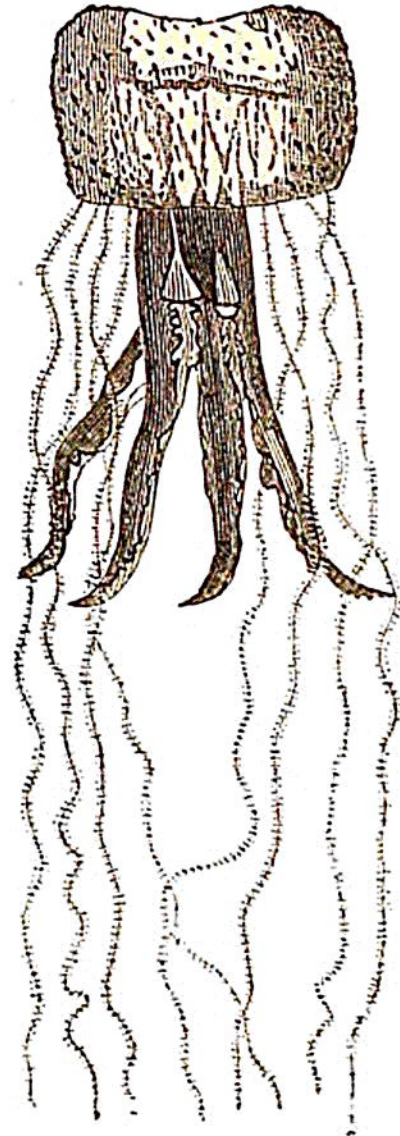


Fig. 12.

abound equally within the polar circle and near the equator, are eminently phosphoric.* Bosc says he has seen millions, which he could scarcely distinguish during the day from the water in which they lived, but which in warm and calm nights afforded the most brilliant spectacle. From their rotatory motion, they seemed then globes of fire which rolled upon the surface of the water. The more rapid their motion, the more intense the light; and their tails always emitted more than their body. They doubtless absorb animalcules with the water that they inspire, and they swim by a motion combining rotation with contraction and dilatation. They are found from a line to six inches in diameter. Providence has destined them to be the food of a vast number of fishes, even the whale does not disdain them; and we may conjecture the havoc that one of these giants of the ocean would make in their ranks. The manner in which they are propagated† has not been ascertained, but from their infinite numbers in every sea, their progeny must be inconceivable.



Rhizostoma.

his steam-boats, and with pride points to those paddle-wheels with which he walks upon the waves; the paddle-wheels are here more perfect far than ever were contrived by human ingenuity, for all the cumbrous enginery required by man to urge their movements is not needed, each float, self-moving, keeping time with all the rest.—T. R. J.

* Beroe.

† The manner in which these frail beings are propagated forms one of the most remarkable parts of their history, and although many curious and interesting facts relative to this subject have recently been brought to light