

half of the œsophagus, and its external (abaxial) wall formed above by the umbrella collar, below by the velum. The upper (proximal) margin touches the peripheric margin of the gastral cavity, and corresponds to the exumbral coronal furrow, whilst the lower (distal) margin forms the opening of the umbrella cavity.

The gastrovascular system (figs. 1, 4) is divided in *Cunantha æginoides*, as in all other Narcomedusæ, into two essential and very distinct principal parts—into the central stomach with œsophagus, and the peripheric corona of pouches with a circular canal; the former is fastened to the ventral side of the central umbrella lens, the latter to that of the peripheric umbrella collar. The central stomach (*gc*) is a flat circular pouch, whose horizontal covering or upper aboral wall is formed by the lower, slightly convex, depressed surface of the central gelatinous lens of the umbrella. The bottom or lower wall of the central stomach, on the contrary, is only a narrow ring, whose thick muscular wall extends downwards like a cone, and becomes a long strong œsophagus (fig. 3, *gt*). This œsophagus is very mobile and contractile, nearly as long as the horizontal diameter of the umbrella, the upper half conically funnel-shaped, the lower half nearly quadrangulantly prismatic; it ends below in a narrow oral opening, which sometimes seems quadratic, sometimes circular (fig. 3, *na*). Like the whole lower wall of the stomach, the proboscis-like œsophagus is capable of great extension and contraction.

The peripheric corona of pouches which runs from the periphery of the basis of the stomach (towards the inside of the coronal furrow) begins with four broad perradial gastral pouches, lying crosswise (figs. 2, 4, *bg*), whose upper (adumbral) wall is supported in its perradial middle line by the stiff tentacle root lying on it (*tr*). The breadth of the four gastral radial pouches increases remarkably towards the outside, and surpasses the length considerably; after a short course they bifurcate into two semi-oval cæcal pointed lobe pouches (figs. 2, 4, *bl*). These fill the largest part of the sub-umbral wall of the collar lobes, and at the same time represent the genitalia, as the ova are developed from the exodermal epithelium of their subumbral wall (fig. 4, *so*). Only a few (two to four) large ripe ova lie in each lobe pouch, among numerous others very small and undeveloped. A double clasp canal or peronial canal (fig. 4, *ck*) runs out between the two lobe pouches of each perradial gastral pouch from the middle of the distal end of the latter. This double canal consists of two narrow parallel tubes, which are separated by the deep furrow of the peronium or umbrella clasp. The two parallel canals diverge on the umbrella margin, at the distal end of the peronium, turn almost rectangularly in contrary directions, and run along the distal margin of the umbrella lobe, in whose centre they unite with the half of the corresponding neighbouring canal running towards them. In this way there is formed a peculiar annular canal shaped like a garland or a festoon, whose arches border the periphery of the umbrella lobes, and whose inverted corner corresponds with the insertion of the tentacle. In proportion, as the arches of the lobe