

2. Linnean Society of London.

18. Decbre. 1879. — Note on the Podocysts of the Hydroida. — Prof. Allman drew attention to the fact of his having some years ago (Phil. Trans. 1875) described the occurrence in *Myriothela* of certain remarkable pedunculated sacs which are formed in the spherical capitulum of the tentacles, where they are in connection with a bulbous mass composed of radiating filaments. These filaments admit of a comparison with the rod-like bodies characteristic of special sense organs in higher animals: and the whole structure was believed by the author to represent in *Myriothela* an apparatus of special sense. For these pedunculated sacs Prof. Allman proposes the designation of »Podocysts« and he now believes that in more or less modified forms they are more widely distributed among the Hydroida than he had supposed when he described them in *Myriothela*. He would refer to the same group of bodies the pedunculated thread-cell-like sacs which in the form of four pencils terminate the four lobes which surround the mouth of the planoblast in *Podocoryne* (see Gymnoblasic Hydroids, Pl. XVI, figs. 6, 7). Here, however, instead of being immersed in the surrounding tissues, they stand out free from the surface and are bathed on all sides by the water. Each sac is furnished with a minute terminal style, as in *Myriothela*. Whether the very singular pedunculated sacs with which the tentacles are armed in the planoblast of *Gemmaria* (Gymnoblasic Hydroids, Pl. VIII, figs. 3, 4) must be placed in the same general category with the »podocysts« of *Myriothela* is not at present so evident. Instead of containing, as in the latter, a single thread-cell-like body the sacs of *Gemmaria* enclose several oval capsules, while the terminal style of the »podocyst« of *Myriothela* is here replaced by a pencil of long vibratile cilia. The peduncle of the sac moreover is in *Gemmaria* eminently contractile, at one time extending itself to a great length and again becoming so much shortened as to bring the sac which it carries on its summit almost in contact with the tentacle of the planoblast. Notwithstanding, however, these differences the correspondance is still so close as to suggest a similar significance. — J. Murie.

IV. Personal-Notizen.

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