

*Desmidiaceæ*, of which a species of *Euastrum* is represented in Fig. 18 as a specimen.

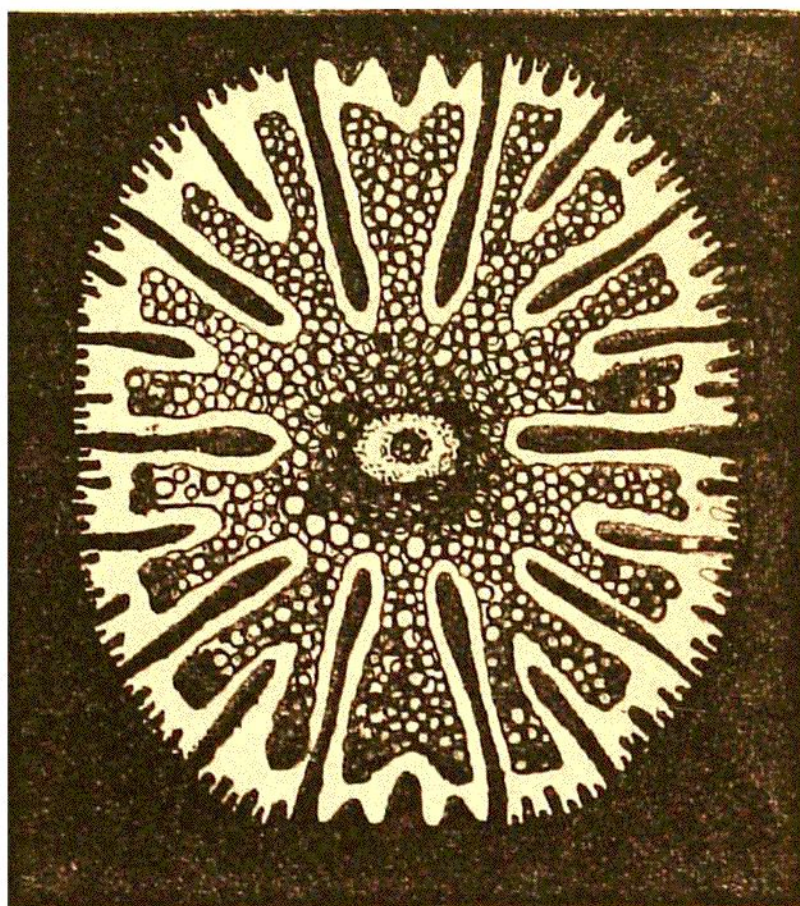


FIG. 18.—*Euastrum rota*, a single-celled Desmid, much enlarged. The whole of the star-shaped body of this primæval plant has the formal value of a simple cell. In its centre lies the kernel, and within this the kernel corpuscle, or speck.

It is very probable that similar primæval plants, the soft body of which, however, was not capable of being preserved in a fossil state, at one time peopled the Laurentian primæval sea in great masses and varieties, and in a great abundance of forms, without, however, going beyond the stage of individuality of a simple plastid.

The group of *Green Tangles* (*Chlorophyceæ*), or *Green Algæ* (*Chloroalgæ*), are the second class, and the most closely allied to the primæval group. Like the majority of the *Archeephyceæ*, all the *Chlorophyceæ* are coloured green, and