## Catalan.

Let  $C_n$  be the number of bracketings of the non-associative (n+1)-tuple  $\{A_0, \ldots, A_n\}$ . Since each such bracketing contains one of the patterns  $(A_0 \cdots A_k)(A_{k+1} \cdots A_n)$ , we have the recursion relation

$$C_{n+1} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} C_k C_{n-k} \,. \tag{1}$$

For the formal power series  $f(X) = \sum_k C_k X^k$ , this means  $f(X) = 1 + X f(X)^2$ , whence

$$f(X) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4X}}{2X} \,. \tag{2}$$

Substituting -4X for T in the square root series

$$g(T) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} {1/2 \choose k} T^k, \qquad (3)$$

which is obtained — remember? — by repeated formal differentiation of  $(1+T)^{1/2}$ , we get

$$f(X) = -\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-2^k) \binom{1/2}{k} (2X)^{k-1}.$$
 (4)

Here the numerator of the "binomial" coefficient is the product of  $(1/2 - \mu)$ , with  $\mu = 0, \ldots, k-1$ . Multiplying each of its k factors with -2 yields  $(2\mu - 1)$ , which is positive except for  $\mu = 0$ . Hence it is not hard to compute

$$C_n = 2^n \frac{(2n-1)(2n-3)\cdots 1}{(n+1)!} = \frac{(2n)!}{(n+1)! \, n!} = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}. \tag{5}$$