

X. — A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE
POLYCHAETA OF SOUTH AFRICA.

BY Dr. R. HORST.

1. *Amphinomidae and Aphroditidae.*

Professor Max Weber, during a short stay in South Africa in 1894, made a small collection of Annelids, which he kindly handed me over for examination. As I found among them some species, which for the first time are mentioned from this interesting region, where the fauna's of the Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific meet each other, it will not be without interest to publish a short note about them.

Euphrosyne capensis Kinb. ¹⁾.

(— *polybranchia* Schm.) ²⁾.

At Seapoint, near low watermark, 8 specimens were collected, the largest of which has only a length of 16 mm., whereas its breadth measures 6 mm.; the number of the segments of this specimen amounts to 45.

Eurythoë complanata (Pall).

This species, already mentioned by Potts from the Seychelles ³⁾, was collected in a rather great number of individuals of different size in the neighbourhood of Durban and Isipingo. The neuropodial bristles in the majority of the specimens have a yellow, smooth, bifurcated, distal part; in some specimens however the longer limb shows one or two shallow denticles.

Chloeia fusca Mc Int.

It is the first time, that this pretty, little Amphinomid, widely distributed in the Malay Archipelago, as proved by the dredgings of the Siboga ⁴⁾, has been found on the coast of South Africa. Potts however had already stated its presence in the vicinity of the Amirante Islands, where it was collected by Mr. Stanley Gardiner in 1905. In these spe-

1) Kinberg, *Annalata*: Kongl. Svenska Freg. Eugenies Resa omkring Jorden, Pl. XII, fig. 14; Contin. Theél, p. 37.

2) *Neue wirbellose Thiere*, 1861, p. 136, Pl. XXXIII, figs. 264—287.

3) *Polychaeta of the Indian Ocean*, Part I, Amphinomidae, p. 367.

4) *Siboga-expeditie*, Livr. LXII: *Polychaeta errantia*, Part I, Amphinomidae, 1912, p. 22, where also the literature is mentioned.

cimens the two dorsal tripes appear to be much thinner than in the Malayan species. A dozen of specimens was captured in Natal bay (Durban).

The Durban-specimens fully agree in coloration as well as in structure with those from Banda; only the median tentacle appears to be shorter and does not much exceed half the length of the caruncle, whereas in the Banda-specimens it is nearly of the same length or somewhat longer.

The largest specimen has a length of 18 mm.; the number of its segments is 23.

Iphione muricata (Sav.)¹⁾.

Two small specimens, agreeing in all regards with those from the Indian Ocean, were collected at Durban (Bluff). *Iphione muricata* has already been found at Djibouti by Coutière, near Mauritius by Mathieu²⁾. Kinberg described an other species of this genus, *Iph. spinosa*³⁾, from Port Natal (Durban), especially distinguished from *Iph. muricata* by its longer antennae („basi et lobo cephalico longiores, palpos spinosos superantes”); according to Gravier it should also be characterized by a peculiar structure of the neuropodial bristles. However it is somewhat dubious whether *Iph. spinosa* does really represent an other species⁴⁾.

Lepidonotus semitectus Stimps.⁵⁾.

(— *wahlbergi* Kinb.)⁶⁾.

Of this species, that is widely distributed round the South African shores, specimens were collected in Table bay and near Durban.

Scalisetosus pellucidus (Ehl.).

(— *communis* (D. Ch.).

Several individuals of this species, already mentioned by Ehlers⁷⁾ from Simonstown, were collected in Table bay. However, in my opinion, they differ somewhat from the specimina, found on the coast of Europe, by the structure of their dorsal bristles. According to Mc Intosh⁸⁾ the dorsal setae do not show more than eight lacinated rows or frills, whereas Claparède⁹⁾ figures seven of them and St. Joseph¹⁰⁾ speaks of four

1) Système des Annélides, p. 21, Pl. III, fig. 1.

2) Gravier, Annél. Polych. de la Mer rouge, p. 226, Pl. IX, figs. 129—135.

3) Freg. Eugenies resa: Annulata, p. 8.

4) Augener, Fauna Südwest-Australiens, Polych. errantia, p. 98.

5) New marine Invertebrates: Proc. Acad. Philadelphia, Vol. VII, 1855, p. 393.

6) loc. cit., p. 12, Pl. IV, fig. 14.

7) Deutsche Südpolar-Expedition 1901—03, Bd. XIII. Zoologie V, p. 447.

8) British Annelids, Part. II, 1900, p. 372.

9) Annélides chétopodes du Golfe de Naples.

10) Annélides polychètes de la rade de Brest, etc., Ann. Sc. nat. (S. VIII), Vol. X, 1899, p. 170.

to six. The Cape-specimens possess at least twenty to twenty five of these frills, the distal ones being situated close to one another below the tip of the bristles. Similar bristles were observed in the dorsal lobe of the foot in a specimen of *Scalisetosus*, collected by the Siboga-expedition at Station 260¹⁾.

The four (two on each side) small papillae, observed by Fauvel near the base of the exterior large papillae, at the entrance of the proboscis, of *Scalis. assimilis*, are also to be seen in *Scalis. pellucidus*²⁾.

Lagisca extenuata (Gr.)

In Table bay several individuals of a *Harmothoïd*-worm were collected, which in the structure of the head and the appearance of the scales and bristles much agree with *Lagisca extenuata*, a common form on the coast of Europe and already mentioned from Simonstown by Ehlers³⁾. The ventral bristles in the Cape-specimens however somewhat differ from the description and the figures, published by Mc Intosh⁴⁾. Whereas in the Cape worms the short dilated distal part of the ventral bristles ends in a hook-like tip, provided with a rather acute tooth below it, like as in *Lagisca jeffreysii*⁵⁾ and *Parmenis ljungmanni*⁶⁾, according to Mc Intosh the ventral bristles in the British specimens usually are characterised by a very long, spinous, distal region and by the absence of a secondary process at the short, bare tip. Von Marenzeller⁷⁾ however, who published a detailed account of *Lag. extenuata*, states that in the Mediterranean specimens the neuropodial bristles mostly are bidentate and that only a few of those, which are situated ventrally, have a simple, undivided tip. It may be suggested, that the Cape-worms, referred by Willey to a new species, *Parmenis capensis*⁸⁾, also ought to be identified with *Lag. extenuata*, the scales and bristles quite resembling those of the last named species. However the lateral antennae in *Parm. capensis* appear to be much shorter than in *Lag. extenuata*.

Harmothoë dictyophora Gr.

Three specimens were captured in the neighbourhood of Durban (Bluff).

1) loc. cit., p. 101, Pl. XXI, fig. 10.

2) Annél. Polychètes de l'Hirondelle et de la Princesse-Alice, 1914, p. 48.

3) loc. cit. p. 448.

4) Brit. Annelids, p. 307. Pl. XXXVIII, figs. 12 and 13.

5) loc. cit., p. 305, Pl. XXXVIII, fig. 9.

6) Malmgren, Annul. Polychaeta, Pl. I, fig. 2.

7) Zur Kenntniss d. Adriat. Anneliden, II, p. 133, Pl. I, fig. 1.

8) Litt. Polychaeta from the Cape of Good Hope; Trans. Linn. Soc. (2) Zoology, Vol. IX, p. 258, Pl. XIII, figs. 7 and 8, and figs. 27—29.

It is the first time, as far as I know off, that this species is collected in the southern region of the Indian Ocean; Fauvel already mentions it from the Gulf of Persia, whereas Grube stated its presence in the Sulu Sea and Willey found it near Ceylon. The Siboga-expedition ¹⁾ dredged two specimens in the vicinity of Soembawa (Stat. 310) and the Kei-Islands (Stat. 258) and it was met with by Michaelsen and Hartmeyer in Sharks bay (Southwest-Australia).

Harmothoë sp.

Among the specimens of *Lagisca extenuata* (Gr.) I met with a small worm, that from this species differs by the situation of the eyes as well as by the appearance of the scales. The specimen measures about 10 mm. in length and consists of 37 segments; it had lost the greater part of its elytra. The anterior eyes, that are somewhat larger than the posterior ones, are situated laterally, at the base of the frontal peaks, like as in *Nychia cirrosa* (Pall.); the posterior pair lies in front of the posterior margin of the head. The elytra are reniform, with a smooth margin; their total surface is covered with small conical tubercles.

The neuropodial bristles much resemble those of *Lag. extenuata*; their tip however is less curved than in this species.

Lepidasthenia microlepis Potts.

Of this species, for the first time mentioned by Potts from the Maldives and afterwards captured by the Siboga-expedition on the reef of Haingsisi (Samau Island) ²⁾, a fine specimen, with 25 pairs of elytra, was found in the bay of Durban (Bluff). Like as the elytra also the distal part of the dorsal cirri is coloured by a chocolate pigment; the papillae of the proboscis are blackish.

Sthenelais boa Johnst.

Of this species, mentioned by Mc. Intosh from St. James' and False bay ³⁾, by the Valdivia-expedition from Simons bay ⁴⁾, an incomplete specimen was captured in the neighbourhood of Isipingo and Durban.

1) loc. cit., p. 90, where also the literature about the species is quoted.

2) loc. cit., Part II, p. 86, Pl. XIX, fig. 9.

3) Marine Annelids (Polychaeta) of South Africa: Mar. Investigat. in South Africa, Vol. III, 1903, p. 32.

4) Die bodensässigen Anneliden d. deutschen Tiefsee-Expedition, p. 56.