

XXVI. *Descriptions of several new species of Myriopoda of the genera Sphærotherium and Zephronia.*
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[Read August 7th, 1878.]

THE following species have been added to the National Collection since the beginning of the year 1877, and several of them are of great interest, being quite abnormal in structure.

SPHÆROTHERIUM, Brandt.

Sphærotherium crassum, n. sp.

Pale castaneous; the dorsal segments for the most part, with their posterior margins, dusky or blackish; the second to seventh dorsal segments with blackish lateral wings; mouth, front of head, eyes and legs greenish.

Head smooth, shining, slightly depressed on each side of the central area, deeply sinuated in the centre behind; coarsely punctured, densely in front and sparsely towards the back; nuchal plate rather short, rugulose, with a series of punctures on each side of the anterior margin; dorsal segments dull; *first dorsal segment with broad and thin lateral laminae, having a well-defined marginal ridge*; second to eleventh segments rugose in front; last segment finely punctured behind, slightly compressed, with well-marked marginal rim.

Length 1 inch, 3 lines; width 7 lines.

Fianarantsoa, Madagascar (Rev. W. D. Cowan).

Seems to be allied to my *S. stigmaticum*, but differs in the rugose anterior portion of the dorsal segments and the absence of the embossed triangular spot on the last segment. The differences of colour may be due to the specimen having been sent over in sawdust damped with spirits of wine.

Sphærotherium angulatum, n. sp.

Dark reddish castaneous, with the anterior portion of each of the dorsal segments ochraceous; under surface, legs and antennæ testaceous; eyes greenish testaceous.

Head shining, rugose in front, smooth, with a few scattered coarse punctures towards the back, regularly and rather broadly sinuated behind; nuchal plate moderately long, smooth, with a series of rather coarse punctures along the anterior margin; dorsal segment smooth and shining, their anterior portions densely covered with coarse but very shallow punctures; *first dorsal segment with scarcely a trace of lateral laminae, but with coarse submarginal punctures and a strongly-defined marginal ridge*; second to eleventh segments with the anterior portion of their lateral wings finely and densely punctured, and with a distinct marginal rim; terminal segment with *its posterior third slightly compressed, so as to form a rounded projecting central point, which gives the profile outline a distinctly angular appearance*, also sparsely and finely punctured; marginal rim linear.

Length 1 inch, 3 lines; width 8 lines.

Rockhampton, Queensland. (Two examples, dry and in spirits.)

General aspect of the enlarged figure of *S. convexum*, as given by Dr. Koch (Die Myriapoden, tab. xiv. fig. 27), but much redder; the lateral laminae of the first dorsal segment reduced to a minimum, the head smoother, the front of the nuchal plate less angular, and the last dorsal segment with distinctly angular profile outline.

Sphærotherium lamprinum, n. sp.

Dark reddish olivaceous; under surface, legs, antennae and eyes greenish; front of head blackish; anterior borders of the dorsal segments and a few scattered irregular blotches rather paler than the ground-colour.

Brilliantly polished; head rugose in front, coarsely and sparsely punctured towards the back; deeply sinuated behind, with the anterior edge of the sinuation bracket-shaped; nuchal plate short, smooth, slightly depressed in the centre; first dorsal segment with broad and thin laminae, having a thick anterior marginal ridge; *second to eleventh segments with the anterior margins of their lateral wings very oblique, with distinct terminal or apical rims*; last segment unusually oblique, with linear marginal rim.

Length 10 lines; width 5 lines.

Fianarantsoa, Madagascar (Rev. W. D. Cowan).

Differs from medium-sized examples of *S. neptunus* in

its redder colour, much more brilliantly-polished surface, shorter nuchal plate, and the much more oblique anterior edges of the lateral wings of the dorsal segments.

Sphærotherium reticulatum, n. sp.

Piceous; the borders of the segments reddish castaneous; head, nuchal plate, and anterior ridge of the first dorsal segment spotted with black; under surface, legs and antennæ testaceous; eyes green.

Head smooth, shining; coarsely punctured, densely in front and sparsely towards the back; deeply sinuated behind as in the preceding species; *dorsal segments covered with impressed reticulations*; first dorsal segment with gradually-formed lateral laminae and strongly-defined marginal ridge, thicker towards the front; *dorsal segments gradually increasing in length from the second to the ninth and then gradually decreasing*, so that the inferior margin of the Myriopod, when viewed in profile, is distinctly convex; anterior margins of the lateral wings very oblique, with linear marginal rim.

Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ lines; width $4\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Madagascar. (Two examples.)

Zephronia larvalis, n. sp.

Pale olive green, clouded (near the back of the dorsal segments, on the head and along the front of the nuchal plate) with dark green; posterior borders of the segments reddish, traversed by submarginal yellow lines; front of head lilacine-reddish, nuchal plate also reddish, with yellowish margins; under surface, legs, antennæ and eyes pale green; last dorsal segment with an irregular blackish central spot.*

Head smooth, sparsely but very coarsely punctured, deeply sinuated behind, and with a distinct protuberance in front of the sinus; nuchal plate rather short, *with a strongly-defined anterior ridge*, the impression behind which is coarsely punctured; posterior portion of the nuchal plate with rather abruptly convex outline and *with two well-marked central tubercles divided by an abbreviated impressed longitudinal line*; first dorsal segment with a well-defined, thickened marginal ridge, behind which runs an oblique and flat surface, continuous with

* Perhaps an individual peculiarity.

the lateral laminae, and forming an angle behind with *an impressed transverse band which bounds the anterior edge of the superior surface of the segment*; remaining segments with their lateral wings less oblique than usual; terminal segment rather short, oblique, with no marginal rim.

Length $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines; width $3\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Torres Straits (Rev. J. S. Macfarlane).

The very unusual peculiarities in the structure of the head, nuchal plate and first dorsal segment will readily distinguish this species from all others hitherto made known to science.

Zephronia atrisparsa, n. sp.

Pale olivaceous, mottled with dark green and sprinkled all over with small round black spots; posterior margins of the segments reddish; legs, antennae, eyes and head dark green.

Head rugose in front, smooth, shining and sparsely punctured towards the back, its posterior margin slightly concave but *not distinctly sinuated*; *nuchal plate smooth, very broad*, sparsely punctured, and with an irregular series of coarse punctures along its anterior margin; first dorsal segment unusually depressed, with a strongly-defined transverse impressed line, the marginal ridge of lateral laminae feebly developed; all the dorsal segments coarsely but sparsely punctured, excepting along their posterior borders; lateral wings with very oblique anterior margins; terminal segment short, rounded, rugulose, with scarcely a trace of a marginal rim.

Length 1 inch, 2 lines; width 5 lines.

Bombay (Dr. Leith).

Readily separable from *Z. nigrinota* by its much shorter and broader nuchal plate: it is also much more heavily spotted with black.



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