

On some new and little-known Myriopoda from the Southern Alleghanies. By E. D. COPE.

PETASERPES, Cope.

Head concealed to the bases of the antennæ by the shield-like expansion of the scutum of the first annulus. Ocelli two, beneath the margin of the same, and at the approximated bases of the antennæ; the latter large, stout, hairy, six-jointed. Annuli without lateral processes, each with two pores, forming two rows on each side of the body.

Petaserpes rosalbus, Cope.

The segments of the body are flattened below, and gently convex above; their lateral expansion is a little greater than the length of the extended feet; each has a delicate impressed line near the posterior margin, which passes round the extremity, producing the semblance of a longitudinal angle. The extremital margins are entirely continuous. The transverse diameter contracts very rapidly at both extremities, and the anal annulus and head are relatively exceedingly small. The basilar segment is semidiscoid, and forms the segment of a hollow sphere. The anterior aspect is horizontal, and has a delicate marginal rim. The head is inferior, and has the short conic form of *Octoglena*, Wood. The mouth is situated near the extremity of a cone, and not of a rather flattened muzzle as in the Andrognathidæ; there are hairs scattered about it and the sides of the head. The antennæ are of remarkable size for the head, and originate near together, just at the inferior margin of the basilar segment. Just within and above them, at their base, is situated on each side a short crescentic ocellus or aggregate of ocelli, whose superior extremity is concealed by the margin of the basilar segment. In one specimen each of these presents a rugose surface, and in another seems to be divided into four ocelli, perhaps by the accumulation of a light-coloured deposit between the elevations. The antennæ possess six joints, of which the antepenultimate is a little the shortest; they become successively stouter towards the extremity of the antenna, and are all quite hairy.

The reproductive organ of the male is a subglobular body on a short pedicel, hairy except the convex extremity, which is smooth. On the inner side two short pedicels support each a short curved spine, one curved backwards and another forwards.

The annuli are smooth. The anal annulus is small, and for the greater part overroofed by the penultimate, which is broader than usual. The legs are minutely hairy.

The colour of this animal in life is a delicate rose-colour, whitish at one extremity and shading into orange at the other.

The number of the annuli in the adults I find to be fifty-three down to fifty-one. In specimens a little smaller there are forty-six and forty-four; and in the smallest and palest-coloured, hence younger, the number ranges from forty-three to thirty-nine.

The locality whence I obtained this species is on the western

slope of the Cumberland Mountains, in the northern part of East Tennessee. I found them under masses of chestnut-bark in two places, in small families of some size, with *Polydesmus*. They have the motions of *Polydesmi*; i. e. they progress slowly, and roll themselves up when captured.

This form is near Wood's *Octoglena*, of which one species (*O. bivirgata*) was found in Northern Georgia. It differs generically in the great extent of the basilar segment, which is very short and leaves the head exposed in *Octoglena*, and in the agglomeration of the ocelli, which in the latter are arranged in two long series of four each.

The annuli appear to be completely chitinized on the median line below.

Observations on other Myriopoda.

Brachycybe Lecontei, Wood, occurs in Jefferson County, in the valley of East Tennessee; it is not very common, and lives under bark of fallen logs. The structure of its head is much like that of *Andrognathus* externally; and the genus is probably to be referred to the Andrognathidæ rather than to the Siphonophoridæ. It differs from the former genus in marked characters, the confluence of the last three articulations of the antennæ being the most important.

Cambala annulata, Say (Cope, Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc. 1869, p. 181), is one of the most abundant of the Myriopoda in the mountain-regions of Tennessee and North Carolina. It is more abundant than *Spirostrephon lactarius*, which it considerably resembles, and with which it is found under bark, &c.

As is known, the Myriopoda of the orders Strongyli and Sugentia are sluggish in their motions, and not furnished with offensive weapons. They therefore produce secretions of a very acrid character, which furnish a secure defence against many enemies. The species of *Spirobolus* and *Julus* discharge a yellowish juice, having much the smell of aqua regia, and a very acrid taste. *Spirostrephon lactarius* exudes, from a series of lateral pores*, a fluid which has in its odour a close resemblance to creosote. *Polydesmus virginianensis* is defended by a fluid which has almost exactly the smell of hydrocyanic acid, and is fatal to small animals. *Peta-serpes rosalbus* secretes a considerable quantity of a milky substance which has the perfume of gum camphor.

Pseudotremia cavernarum, Cope, is found in some of the limestone-caves of the valley of Tennessee. I found it especially abundant in the Lost-Creek Cave on the Holston River, in Granger County, near and on piles of bat-excrement, and under stones. In company with it were numerous small, leaping, Lepismoid insects, a Pselaphid beetle, a Carabid somewhat like *Patrobus*, and a spider. Large numbers of a very small *Ixodes*-like animal covered parts of the surface and cavities of the body of a dead bat, in a locality distant from the mouth of the cave.

* I must correct my character "no lateral pores" for *Spirostrephon* (Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. 1869, p. 179) to "one series of pores."

The writer examined the Lost-Creek Cave for a distance, stated to have been measured, of nearly two miles from the mouth; and the statement is probably correct, judging by the time occupied in passing through to the point reached. A creek of a considerable size issues from the cave; near the mouth it is dammed; and a race leads the water for a short distance to a corn-mill on the banks of the Holston River. The water is crossed by the path perhaps five times before it fills up the passage so as to prevent further progress. The passage is wide, dry, and with so few irregularities that a public road might be readily made in it to that point. I could not find any fishes; just outside the mouth a small *Uranidea* is not uncommon. The dam within the cave abounds in dead *Ios*, *Uniones*, &c., said to be carried there by floods of the Holston, but quite as probably the refuse of the meals of Indians. Bones of Indians, turkeys, and game animals are to be found at the mouth of the cave, which is in a bluff some fifty feet above the level of the river. At one side of the entrance a hard limestone deposit contains charcoal, *Uniones*, and *Melanice*. The limestone cliff produced abundance of *Asplenium montanum*, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, and a delicate bipinnate *Pteris*.—From the Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. May 1870. Communicated by the Author.

Note on the Black Crocodile of Africa.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S.

Mr. Moore has kindly sent me a recent specimen of *Halcrosia nigra* from the river Bonny, in West Africa, presented to the British Museum by Dr. Forsyth, of 18 Saxon Street, Liverpool. It is the only fresh and the most adult specimen of the species I have seen, and is nearly 4 feet long. It is interesting as making me more certain that I am correct in identifying it with the "Krocodile noir du Niger" of Adanson.

The whole animal is black both above and below; the belly has a brownish tinge, very slightly and obscurely dotted with white. The nuchal shields are very thick, with an upright outer edge. This animal has been described as a new species by Mr. Andrew Murray and Mr. Cope, and was confounded by Cuvier with the rough-backed alligator (*Caiman trigonatus*) of South America.

Note on Hyperoodon latifrons (Gray).

In an essay lately published by Prof. Reinhardt, he figures the skull of this species and the animal and skeleton of a male foetus of the common *H. rostratus* (Vid. Selsk. Skr. ser. 5. ix. 1, pls. 6 & 7), observing that pl. 6 "represents the skull of a male *H. latifrons* from the Färöer, a perfect skeleton of which, 25 feet long, is contained in the University Museum at Copenhagen. Eschricht believed that *H. latifrons* was established on a very old male of the common *H. rostratus*; but Gray's species must now be regarded as well established."



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