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I. Wissenschaftliche Mittheilungen.

1. Notes on *Peripatus jamaicensis*, Grabh. and Kll.

By T. D. A. Cockerell, Las Cruces, New Mexico, U. S. A.

eingeg. 20. Juni 1893.

The Jamaican *Peripatus* was discovered by Gosse, lately rediscovered by Mrs. E. M. Swainson, and described briefly as a new species in »Nature«, Sept. 29, 1892, p. 514. In the »Journal of the Institute of Jamaica«, Jan. 1893, it was figured, and some further particulars given about it by Dr. Grabham. The following notes are intended to supplement what has already been published, and to give a more exact account of the animal.

In August, 1892, Mrs. Swainson sent me two specimens, both alive, which she had found on Beacon Hill. These represented the two colour-mutations presented by this *Peripatus*, which may be designated as follows: —

- 1) mut. *Gossei*. Reddish, with the ends of the antennae white.
- 2) mut. *Swainsonae*. Blackish, antennae not tipped with white.

At first it seemed probable that these colour-differences might be sexual, but as females were found subsequently of both forms, this cannot be the case. The very different appearance of the two, and the absence of any intermediate forms, suggests two distinct species, but this again is impossible, as Dr. Grabham has dissected embryos of one form out of the body of a female of the other. Neither is the difference due to age, as adults were found of both. Consequently we have a very distinct and interesting case of colour variation, and

although the form found originally by Gosse must be looked upon as typical of the species, it seems best to give a distinct name to each.

The first specimen of mut. *Gosseï* which I received was described as follows.

Colour above dark pinkish brown, with numerous minute subpyramidal papillae, of a pale colour, arranged in rather irregular longitudinal lines, which are somewhat further apart than the papillae of one line from each other. However, the distance of the papillae from each other varies greatly, and sometimes they are very close. Legs pale pinkish, no striping on body. Antennae of the same colour as the body, but their ends brilliant white, in striking contrast. Under surface of body pale pink, with paler dots indicating the papillae, and a slightly pale median line. 36 pairs of legs.

Body long and slender, diameter 2 mm, length 3 cm, antennae about $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm long.

The specimen of mut. *Swainsonae* was smaller, and had 29 pairs of legs.

Subsequently, several other specimens were received, showing great variation in the number of the legs, as has been mentioned by Dr. Grabham. It also proved that the specimens first received were not adult; the largest ones, when creeping at night, were measured by Mrs. Swainson, who found them 3 inches (76 mm) long.

It also appeared that mut. *Gosseï* was subject to variation, some individuals being distinctly marked down the back, as is shown in the figures alluded to above.

The following notes relate to the microscopical characters of the species.

Claws narrow, rather long, curved, not hooked. Pads 4 as in other neotropical species. Papillae of legs with a broad basal, and a narrower terminal joint, the latter of variable length, and emitting at its end a conspicuous bristle.

Papillae of under side of body with broad bases, pyramidal in outline. They are arranged more or less in transverse lines, and exhibit every gradation to mere serrated bristleless scale-like folds of the epidermis, which themselves arise from the transverse wrinkling. At the end of the body are about four remarkably large cylindrical papillae: these resemble in structure those on the legs, but are considerably larger. On the upper surface of the body the papillae have become stouter and more cylindrical, like those on the legs, except for the much stouter terminal joint. They have also got arranged in rather irregular longitudinal series, with sundry wart-like rudimentary ones scattered all over between. In the living specimen of mut. *Gosseï*,

the minute pimple-like bodies on dorsal surface are all dark red, whereas the true papillae are pale pinkish, in striking contrast. Papillae on the antennae like those on the legs, but the bristle somewhat larger in proportion. The genital orifice appears as a blackish eminence, circular in outline, between the penultimate pair of legs.

The antennae of *Peripatus*, differently from those of other adult arthropods, are capable of being elongated and shortened at will. While recently examining a lepidopterous larva of the genus *Catocala*, which I found at Las Cruces, New Mexico, I observed that its antennae possessed this same power to a certain extent, and moreover, they resembled almost exactly the bristle-bearing papillae on the legs of *Peripatus*.

June 4. 1893.

2. Di una nuova specie di Macruride appartenente alla fauna abissale del Mediterraneo.

Nota del Dr. Enrico H. Giglioli, professore di Zoologia dei Vertebrati nel R. Istituto di Studi Superiori, Firenze.

eingeg. 22. Juni 1893.

Durante la prima campagna talassografica del R. piroscafo »Washington«, il 10 Agosto 1881 all' ouest della Sardegna, alle Stazioni X (Lat. 41° 23' 48" N. Long., 7° 8' 54" E. Gr.) e XI (Lat. 41° 18' 42" N. Long., 6° 54' 2" E. Gr.), da profondità di 2904 metri e 2805 metri, pescammo col gangano due interessanti pesci che riconobbi subito per Macruridi di una forma nuova per me e per la ittiofauna del Mediterraneo. Più tardi credetti poterli riferire al *Coryphaenoides serratus* (Lowe), specie dell' Atlantico boreale incompletamente descritta nel 1843 da un unico esemplare avuto a Madeira e poscia perduto. Mi ero accorto che la breve diagnosi data dal Lowe non si adattava in tutto ai miei due esemplari, ma reticente nel creare nuovi nomi, amai meglio ritenarli con qualche dubbio per la specie descritta dal Lowe e li menzionai con quel nome in varii scritti che trattavano delle nostre esplorazioni abissali¹.

Ultimamente l'amico mio prof. G. Brown Goode di Washington, il quale sta compiendo un lavoro grandioso sui Pesci abissali, richiamò la mia attenzione su questi due pesci, ritenuti essere gli unici esemplari esistenti del *Coryphaenoides serratus* di Lowe²; egli mi esternò

¹ E. H. Giglioli, La scoperta di una fauna abissale nel Mediterraneo (Atti del III Congresso geografico internazionale I. p. 366. II. p. 195. Roma 1881—1883. — E. H. Giglioli, Pelagos p. 227. Genova 1884.

² La specie figurata da Wyville Thomson (The Atlantic, I. p. 118. London 1877) sotto il nome di *Coryphaenoides serratus*, Lowe, è ben diversa dai miei due esemplari, è un tipico *Macrurus* a bocca piccola ed inferiore.

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Cockerell T.D.A.

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