

have passed through the walls of the stomach at a point where the tissue was weakened, possibly by the attack of some intestinal parasites. So far as the present observations are concerned the earlier explanation given by Barret (op. cit.) seems to hold good, firstly because of the very pointed snout of these eels and secondly because eels often formed an item of food of the adult *P. indicus* wherein this phenomenon was commonly observed (Mohamed, 1955).

My grateful thanks are due to Dr. N. K. Panikkar for his encouragement and guidance.

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September 5, 1956.

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24. OCCURRENCE OF THE ECHIUROID WORM *IKEDELLA MISAKIENSIS* (IKEDA) IN INDIAN WATERS (GULF OF KUTCH)

(With a text figure)

During a survey of the low tide belt of Pirotan Island, 10 miles off Jamnagar, we came across an interesting Echiuroid (a bonellid), *Ikedella misakiensis*¹ (female) which we believe has not so far been reported from Indian Waters, but only found within the vicinity of Shimoda Marine Biological Station, Japan! The specimens collected were fairly large and seem to differ from that described from Japan in certain features, especially in the position of the nephridiopore.

The survey was made on 11 and 12 June 1956, and *Ikedella* was discovered on the 11th morning. An interesting feature about the animal's activity is its relationship with the temperature of the surrounding water. It extends its proboscis only when the water gets sufficiently warm. It was after nearly 2 hours of waiting on those coral rocks that the worms were seen to extend their proboscis into the water. It was observed that the body of the animal is always placed slightly oblique inside the rocks. The rocks had to be broken

¹ Synonym, *Parabonellia*.

before the animals were removed entire. Even during low tide these worms were completely submerged under water.

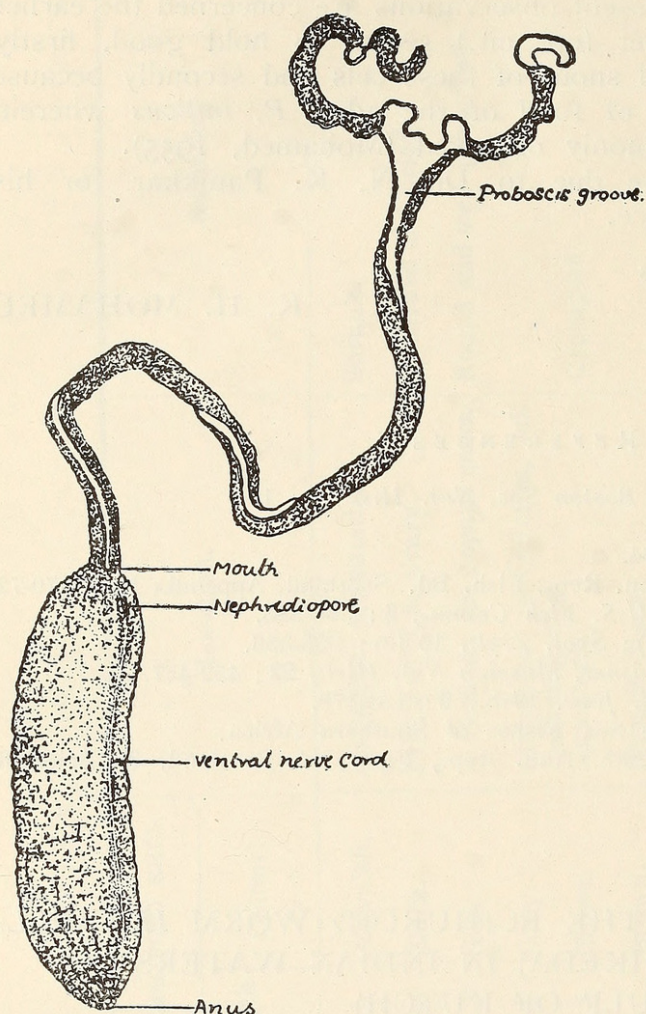


Fig. *Ikedella misakiensis* (Ikeda)
 $\frac{2}{3}$ natural size

Description

The colour of the body is pale brown. It is semi-transparent, with a longitudinal white line traversing the body from the anterior to the posterior region, and indicates the position of the ventral nerve cord. The nephridiopore opens in the anterior region of the body on a papilla placed on the left of the mid-ventral line.

The length of the worm from the tip of the proboscis to the anus ranges from 5.6" to 9.3" (fig.). The body length ranges from 1.6" to 3.5" and is slightly bent ventrally. The body is almost cylindrical and sausage-shaped. The proboscis is ribbon-like, grooved on the ventral side and is dark violet in colour. The outer margin of the proboscis,

throughout its whole length, extends on either side as a thin white border which becomes more prominent in the bifid region.

A detailed study of the ecology and anatomy of the worm is in progress and will be published later.

We would like to express our thanks to the Director, Fisheries Department, Saurashtra Government, for the help rendered by his staff during our stay in Pirotan island. Our thanks are also to Dr. Norman Tebble (Annelida Section) of the British Museum for kindly identifying the specimen.

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REFERENCE

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