A NEW POLYCHAETOUS ANNELID*
FROM KARTABO, BRITISH GUIANA
Genus *Namonereis*

By A. L. Treadwell

(Fig. 33)

A single specimen belonging to this rare genus was collected at Kartabo, British Guiana, and submitted to me for examination through the courtesy of Mr. William Beebe. The specimen lacks the pygidium and is much coiled so that accurate measurements of length are not obtainable. The prostomial width is 1.5 mm. and the greatest body diameter is not over 2 mm.

The prostomium is trapezoidal in outline, its anterior end somewhat narrower than the posterior, (Fig. 33, A). The tentacles are small, broadly lanceolate in outline and situated on the anterior lateral angles of the prostomium, thus separated from one another by almost the entire prostomial width. Owing to imperfect preservation, the surface of the prostomium is very much wrinkled and I am uncertain whether a very narrow transverse band across the anterior margin is an artefact or is really present in the living animal. There is also an indistinct transverse line running across the prostomium just in front of the eyes. The eyes are very large, the two on the same side being partly fused so that under low magnification they appear as one. The proboscis is devoid of paragnaths and the jaws which are dark colored on their outer margins and light on the inner, have eight denticulations. The palps are very heavy and extend to only a short distance in front of the prostomium. The terminal joint of the palp is very small.

Of the tentacular cirri the anterior dorsal is the longest, extending to a distance of one-half its length beyond the apex of the palp. The posterior dorsal one is similar to this in form, but is shorter and the two ventral ones are very short. All have very short cirrophores.

As is common in this genus, the peristomium is short and inconspicuous. Nothing in the coloration of the preserved specimen

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merits especial mention. The parapodia have essentially similar forms throughout the body, though in the posterior ones the dorsal cirri are broader than in the anterior. (Fig. 33, B is taken from the fifteenth somite.) The notopodium is rudimentary, being indicated only by the presence of a single acicula which extends into it and it

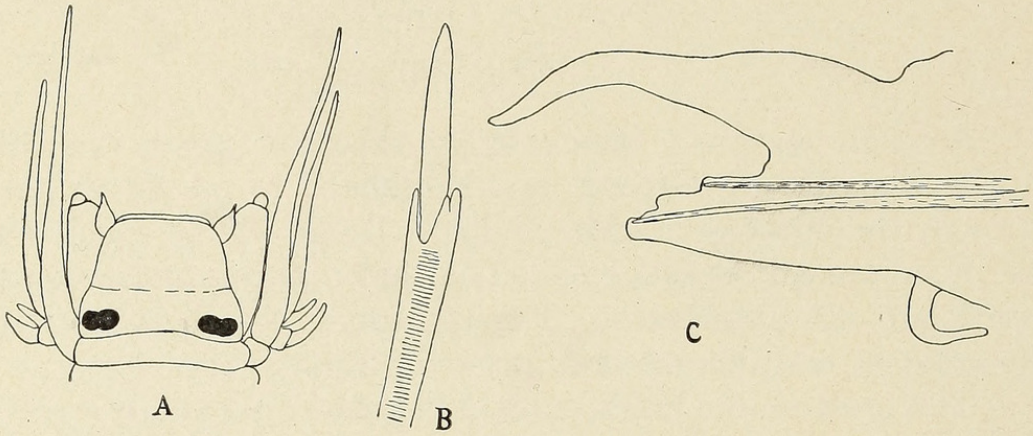

Fig. 33, A.B.C. *Namonereis kartaboensis* Treadwell. sp. nov. A, anterior end of body x 10; B, fifteenth parapodium x 35; C, ventral type of seta x 250.

never has setae. The neuropodium is elongated and somewhat irregularly lobed at the apex, and has a single acicula. The dorsal cirrus is very broad at the base but narrows to an acute apex extending far beyond the setal lobe. The ventral cirrus is very small.

Two types of setae occur in all parapodia. The first type resembles the ordinary nereid setae in that it is compound, the basal joint camerated, the terminal joint elongated, sharp pointed and with a row of denticulations along one edge. The length of the terminal joint is variable. The second type of seta is quite unusual in form in that while it is compound with a camerated basal portion, the terminal portion is blunt pointed and without any trace of denticulations, (Fig. 33, C). The setae of the first type resemble one form described by Gravier in *N*(*Lycastis*) *ouanaryensis* (1901 page 356, figure 3), while the other is somewhat like Gravier's figure 4, but does not have the row of spike-like processes near the base. In general the setae of the first type lie in the dorsal part of the seta-tuft, those of the second in the ventral, but there is a certain amount of overlapping in the middle.

Savigny (1820), gave the generic name *Lycastis* to a new species *L. armillaris,* but this specimen was later shown to belong to the genus *Syllis* and is recorded as *S. armillaris.* Audouin and Milne-

Edwards (1832–34 page 199) adopted the generic name *Lycastis* for a nereid and considered that the type species *L. brevicornis*, is intermediate in character between the Nereidae and the Syllidae. Up to the present time, eight species of this genus have been described, one from West Africa, one from Hawaii, one from the west coast of France, two from Brazil, two from French Guiana and one from Chili. The genus is of especial interest, because in contrast to other nereids which are marine it frequently occurs in fresh or brackish water, and Gravier (1901 pages 354–366, 1901a pages 373–379), and Johnson (1903, pages 214–220) have described the structure and ecology of several of the species. Chamberlin (1919 page 196) shows that in accordance with taxonomic rules, *Lycastis* should be reserved for syllids and proposes instead the generic name *Namonereis* with *N. quadraticeps*. Blanchard, as the type. This procedure I have adopted.

Grube (1871 pages 47, 48) described *Namonereis* (*Lycastis*) *abiuma* from Brazil. I have been unable to get Grube's paper and know it only from the summary given by Gravier (1901 pages 374, 375). This species seems to be more nearly related to *N. kartaboensis* than any previously described species but differs in that the anterior dorsal cirri in *N.* (*L.*) *abiuma* are rudimentary while in *N. kartaboensis* they are fully developed from the first. Fauvel however (1923 page 39), records specimens of *N.* (*L.*) *ouanaryensis* Gravier, from French Guiana in which some individuals have rudimentary dorsal cirri in anterior somites while in others they are of normal size, indicating that this feature may be variable. In other respects, such as the character of the posterior dorsal cirri and the arrangement of the eyes, *N. kartaboensis* seems to differ decidedly from *N.* (*L.*) *abiuma*.

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