

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 6.

TACHÆA SPONGILLICOLA, sp. n.

n. s. ♀, *n. s.* ♂. Lines indicating natural size of female specimen seen in dorsal view at top of plate, and of male specimen from which some of the appendages are figured.

a. s., *a. i.* First and second antennæ of female.

m., *mx. 1.*, *mxp.* Mandible, first maxilla, and maxilliped of female.

mx. 1 ♂, *mx. 2* ♂, *mxp.* ♂. First and second maxillæ and maxilliped of male.

prp. 1, *prp. 2.* First and second peræopods of female.

gn. 1 ♂, *prp. 5* ♂. First gnathopod and fifth peræopod of male.

Pl., *plp. 2* ♂, *urp.* ♂. Pleon of female, with one uropod omitted: second pleopod and uropod of male.

The mouth-organs are magnified to a higher scale than the other appendages.

On a new British Terrestrial Isopod. By ALEXANDER PATIENCE.
(Communicated by the Rev. T. R. R. STEBBING, M.A., F.R.S., Sec.L.S.)

(PLATE 7.)

[Read 17th January, 1907.]

Fam. TRICHONISCIDÆ.

Gen. TRICHONISCUS, *Brandt*, 1833.

TRICHONISCUS STEBBINGI, sp. n. (Plate 7.)

Body oblong oval in form, about two and a half times as long as it is broad. It attains the greatest width about half the total length. Dorsal face convex and very strongly tuberculated, the tubercles being arranged transversely in rows across the segments. Cephalon with the front obtusely rounded; lateral lobes moderately produced, and armed with two small spines on outer edge. Lateral parts of the segments of mesosome edged with very small spicules, which are concealed, however, in a fringe of short hairs; the lateral parts of the three posterior segments prominent, recurved, and acuminate. Metasome with the terminal expansion of last segment broadly and evenly rounded at the tip and armed with four triangular spines, the two central being the largest. Eyes consisting of three visual elements imbedded in dark pigment. Antennulæ with the last joint much longer than the second and having five to seven filaments. Antennæ about one-third the length of body, the flagellum being composed of from four to seven articulations. Left mandible with two, right with one, penicil behind the cutting

part. Last pair of legs in both sexes with the last joint densely ciliated on the outside. Inner ramus of first pair of pleopoda in male not very conspicuous, biarticulate; the terminal joint about twice the length of first, slender and needle-shaped, and produced just slightly beyond the first joint of inner ramus of second pair. Inner ramus of second pair biarticulate, proximal joint short; the distal joint greatly produced, reaching almost to tip of last pair of pleopoda, comparatively robust, and gradually tapering to a needle-like point. Uropoda with outer ramus about twice the length of basal part, inner ramus being narrower and shorter. Colour in the living animal dark reddish brown marbled with white. Length of largest males and females about 3.5 mm.

Remarks.—So far as I have been able to ascertain this species has not hitherto been described, and I am indebted to the Rev. Thomas R. R. Stebbing, F.R.S., and Dr. Budde-Lund for their kind assistance in examining the literature on the subject which had not been available to myself. This species is at once distinguished from all the other British species of *Trichoniscus* by the form of the last segment of the metasome, which is broadly and evenly rounded at the tip, instead of being truncate as in the other species. The type of coloration resembles that of *T. pusillus*, Brandt, although the pigment itself appears to be somewhat darker. Two individuals from the second-named locality noted below were, however, uniformly coloured bright orange. The form of the *second* pair of pleopoda in the male bears a close resemblance to that found in *T. pygmaeus*, G. O. Sars, the distal joint however being comparatively much more robust in the species under consideration. On the other hand, the *first* pair is not at all obtrusive when the animal is viewed from the side, being unlike *T. pygmaeus* in this respect, where the first pair is greatly produced, and is most conspicuous when seen from the same point of view.

Occurrence.—I first met with this species in a field near Alexandra Park, Glasgow, where I obtained two individuals. It was in company with *T. pygmaeus* * and *Trichoniscoides albidus* (Budde-Lund). Subsequently I found it in one of the propagating houses in the Botanic Gardens, Glasgow, where I obtained quite a number of specimens. Its movements are quick, and it runs with great agility when alarmed.

* I observe in the December number of the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' (vol. xviii. p. 474) a note by Mr. Richard S. Bagnall, F.E.S., on the occurrence of *T. pygmaeus*, G. O. Sars, at Winlaton and Newcastle-on-Tyne. This species he regards as new to the British fauna. I may be permitted to observe, however, that I drew attention to the occurrence of this species within the Clyde faunal area in a paper read to the Glasgow Natural History Society on 26th June, 1906, and a report of this paper was published in the 'Glasgow Herald' on the 30th of June. I have found this species, as well as the under-noted which I have lately added to the Scottish records—the last-named being for the West of Scotland—to be widely distributed throughout the Clyde faunal area: *Trichoniscoides albidus* (B.-Lund), *Haplophthalmus danicus*, B.-Lund, *Porcellio dilatatus*, Brandt, *Armadillidium nasatum*, B.-Lund, and *Metoponorthus pruinus* (Brandt).

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 7.

Fig. 1. Female of *Trichoniscus stebbingi*.

Figs. 2, 3. Antennula of male, with portion of last joint more highly magnified.

Fig. 4. Antenna of male.

Fig. 5. One of the first pair of pleopoda of male.

Fig. 6. One of the second pair of pleopoda of male.

Fig. 7. Seventh paræopod of male.

Fig. 8. Mandibles.

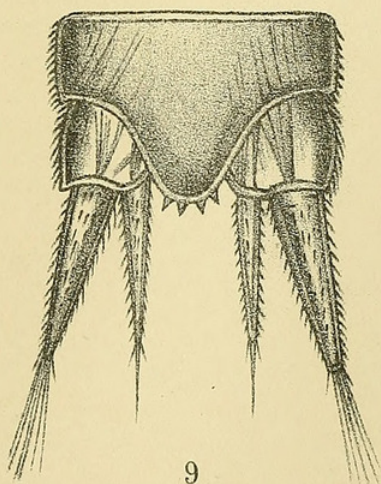
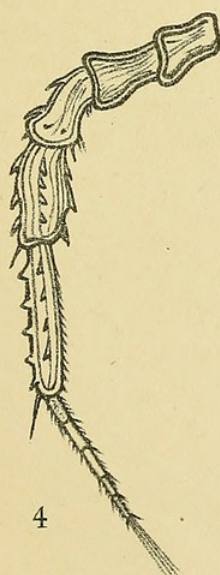
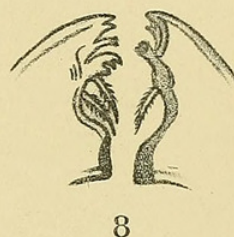
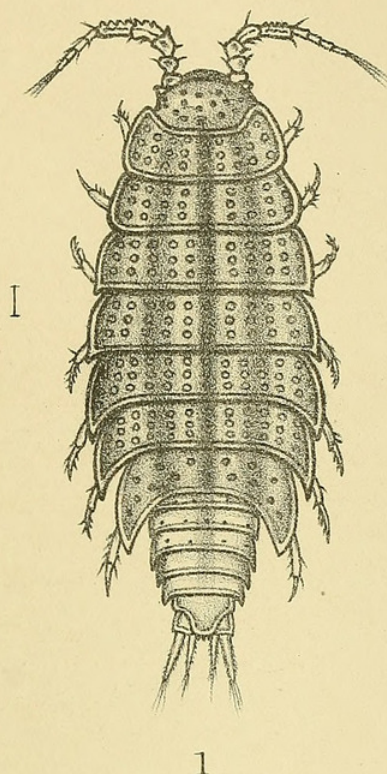
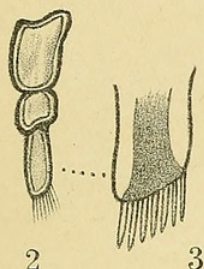
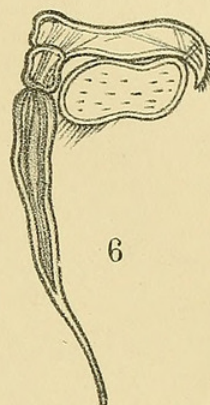
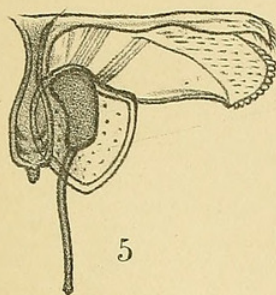
Fig. 9. Last segment of metasome with uropods.

POSTSCRIPT.—Since the above was read before the Society, I have found this species occurring in widely separated parts of the Clyde faunal area, *e.g.*, in several other localities around Glasgow; at Hawkhead in Renfrewshire; at Ayr, and at Uddingston in Lanarkshire. In the last-named place, I found it in considerable numbers in the greenhouse of my friend, Mr. Peter Ewing, F.L.S., who informed me that he has observed the species there for the past twenty years, and suggests that it may have been introduced into his greenhouse along with the roots of *Sphagnum* taken from some of the Scottish hills.

Whilst engaged in investigating the distribution of *T. stebbingi*, I met with another species in a greenhouse in Springburn Park, Glasgow, which offers some points of resemblance to the above-named species, and which I have described in 'The Annals of Scottish Natural History' (April 1907, pp. 85–88, pl. 3) under the name of *Trichoniscus spinosus*. The dorsal face, instead of being tuberculate, is closely covered with small spines directed backwards; the flagellum of each antenna is composed of three articulations, and the last joint of the last pair of legs in both sexes has on the outer edge three or four short but fairly prominent spines. It resembles *T. stebbingi* "in the general form of the body, in the type of coloration, in the structure of the first pair of pleopoda of the male, and in the shape of the last segment of the metasome. The telson, however, in *T. spinosus* is more obtusely rounded at the tip than in the above-named species, and in this respect connects *T. stebbingi* with the other British species of *Trichoniscus*, where the tip of the last segment of the metasome is truncate. Again, the last joint of the inner ramus of the first pair of pleopoda of the male is slightly longer and comparatively more slender than in *T. stebbingi*, while the colour arrangement on the dorsal face presents a more definite pattern. The antennæ, legs, and uropoda, which in *T. spinosus* are coloured, are in *T. stebbingi* generally devoid of pigment."

A. PATIENCE.

29th April, 1907.



A. Patience, del.

J.T. Rennie Reid, Lith. Edin.

TRICHONISCUS STEBBINGI.



Patience, Alexander. 1907. "On a new British Terrestrial Isopod." *The Journal of the Linnean Society of London. Zoology* 30(195), 42–44.

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