

slender and slightly curved thence to the tip. Legs stout, short. Wings with few veins.

285. *NARNIA RASTRATA*. *Mas.* Fulva, scutello strigis quatuor pallide flavis, abdomine fascia basali lata pallide flava, alis diaphanis venis pallide flavis.

Male. Tawny. Scutellum with a pale-yellow streak on each side at its base, and with another on each side of the base of the slender part. Abdomen with a broad pale-yellow band at its base. Wings pellucid; veins pale-yellow. Length of the body 2 lines, of the wings 4 lines.

Hab. Flores.

Gen. SARANTUS, *Stål.*

286. *SARANTUS WALLACEI*, *Stål*, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 3rd ser. i. 592.

Hab. Waigiou.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE III.

Fig. 1. *Dictyophora nigrifinis*.

2. *Ulasia magica*.

3. *Acarina rostrifera*.

4. *Hariola tiarata*.

5. *Interamma angusta*.

6. *Interamma delicata*.

7. *Acrilla adipata*.

8. *Corethrura funebris*.

9. *Acarina notaticollis*.

10. *Polydictya collaris*.

11. *Philagra Douglassi*.

12. *Sarantus Wallacei*.

13. *Ricania cribrata*.

14. *Birdantis decens*.

15. *Ricania latipennis*.

Note on the Discovery of *Planaria terrestris* in England.

By Sir JOHN LUBBOCK, Bart., Vice-President.

ALTHOUGH *Planaria terrestris* was discovered by Müller in Denmark as long ago as the year 1774, and is a species of much interest, it has never yet been observed in Great Britain; and having found it not unfrequently in Kent during the last year, I have thought that it would be desirable to place its occurrence on record, more especially as it is the only species of land-*Planaria* yet discovered in Western Europe. It was described by

Müller in his 'Vermium terrestrium et fluviatilium,' p. 68, under the name of *Fasciola terrestris*, as follows:—

"*Fasciola linearis*, supra convexa, cinerea, subtus alba.

"*Dan.* Jord ; Flad ; Ormen.

"Long. 6–8 lin. ; lat. $\frac{2}{3}$ lin.

"Primo intuitu juniorem Limacem crederes. Animalculum elongatum, simplicissimum, viscidum, opacum, nigricans, supra teres, subtus planiusculum ; antica pars solo incessu a postica distinguitur. Quoties se in crassum volumen contrahit, annuli subtilissimi, sive striæ annulares pallidæ, ope lentis passim conspiciuntur. Intestina nullo modo visibilia. Oculis quidem instruitur, punctis nempe duobus minimis in apice antico (quodvis in areola pallida), at lentis quoque ope difficillime videntur.

"More Hirudinum sese contrahit et extendit, more Limacum progreditur vestigiaque viscositate sua notat.

"Tria individua examini subjeci, in unius dextro latere maculam parvam subluteam duas lineas ab antica parte distantem reperi, an porus excrementorum aut genitalium, aut utriusque ?

"In asseribus muscisque humidis, qua terram spectant, Septembri et Novembri reperi. Extra humiditatem posita minutorum intervallo perit, nec in humidum missa, aut aqua adpersa, reviviscit. Hinc sensu strictissimo ne hic quidem vermis terram, nisi humidam, inhabitat.

"*Fasciola terrestris* Hirudines et Limaces quadricornes, capitata Fasciolas et Limaces bicornes affinitate jungunt."

In his 'Zoologiæ Danicæ Prodromus,' however, which appeared only two years later, he refers it correctly to the genus *Planaria*.

Dugès, in his "Aperçu de quelques Observations nouvelles sur les Planaires et plusieurs genres voisins," which appeared in the 'Annales des Sciences Naturelles' for 1830 (vol. xxi.), says:—

"J'ai trouvé le *P. terrestris* en Languedoc, dans les lieux humides et sous les pierres, après un été pluvieux. Il est noir ou noirâtre en dessus, blanchâtre en dessous, cylindroïde, atténué en avant, mais obtus, et porte deux petits yeux noirs sur son extrémité antérieure. Tout cela a été vu par Müller. J'ai vu de plus un pore blanc au milieu de la face inférieure, et, dans sa structure, j'ai retrouvé la palpe des Planaires, leur trompe, leur pénis, leur vaisseaux spermatiques, et enfin un arbre gastrique consistant en un tronc longitudinal, à branches courtes et tantôt simples, tantôt trifides. Longueur extrême 8 lig., largeur $\frac{1}{2}$ lig."

Diesing in the 'Systema Helminthum,' p. 206, describes it as follows:—

"Corpus sublineare, antrorsum angustatum truncatum, retrorsum rotundatum, supra convexum cinereum, subtus planiusculum album. Ocellus singulus in areola pallida. Longit. 6-8", latit. $\frac{2}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

"FASCIOLA TERRESTRIS, Müller, *Ver. terr. et fluv.* p. 68.

"PLANARIA TERRESTRIS, Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.* 3092; Dugès, *Ann. Sci. Nat.* xxi. 82; Oersted, *Krøyer's Natur. Tids.* iv. 552, and *Ent. ein. sys. Einth. d. Plattw.* 55 in notâ.

"*Habitaculum.* In asseribus muscisque humidis, qua terram spectant, Septembri et Novembri in Dania (Müller); prope Languedociam (Dugès)."

It has also been observed in Germany by Fritz Müller and Moll.

In the 'Mélanges Biologiques tirés du Bulletin de l'Académie Imp. d. Sciences de St. Pétersbourg,' 5th ser. vol. v., Mecznirow describes a second terrestrial *Planaria* under the name of *Geodesmus bilineatus*, expressing, however, some doubt whether it is not the same as the *P. terrestris*. Whether it ought to constitute a new genus may perhaps be questioned; but there can, I think, be no doubt that it is a perfectly distinct species.

On the other hand our English species completely answers to the descriptions given by continental writers, and appears to belong to the true genus *Planaria*. Mr. Houghton, to whom I showed my specimens, and who has found some in Shropshire, is quite of the same opinion. It is pretty common in Kent throughout the year in damp earth and decaying vegetable matter; and I have little doubt that it has hitherto escaped observation owing to its being mistaken for a small Slug.

This close similarity was observed by Müller, who thought that it consequently formed a connecting link between *Limax* and *Hirudo*. It is hardly necessary to say that this is entirely a mistake. The resemblance is altogether superficial; but I do not know any instance of more complete similarity of appearance between two animals belonging to such different divisions of the animal kingdom.



Lubbock, John. 1868. "Note on the Discovery of *Planaria terrestris* in England." *The Journal of the Linnean Society of London. Zoology* 10(43), 193–195.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1868.tb02230.x>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/98556>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1868.tb02230.x>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/376871>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.