Mr. Willemœs-Suhm, who had the opportunity of examining this animal when fresh from the sea, says, in his notes, that it is transparent, and that the alimentary canal, including the œsophagus and stomach, was of a bright red colour, while the hepatic lobes were yellow.

He also says that the dorsal spine-like teeth are arranged in longitudinal rows, one of which traverses the median line, the others run in pairs, making a series of four. The posterior margin of the carapace is also similarly armed with teeth.

The pleon has similar spine-like teeth on each of the six somites, both laterally and in the median line. The telson is also spinous, and has the terminal extremity beautifully fringed with hairs.

LIII.—*Note on* Platyarthrus Hoffmanseggii, *Brandt, and* Helleria brevicornis, *Ebner, Terrestrial Isopoda.* By the Rev. A. E. Eaton, M.A.

The frequent occurrence in stone-sheltered ants' nests of *Platyarthrus Hoffmanseggii* has led popular authors to write about its habits; and reputing it to be blind, they reckon it an animal which has lost, by disuse, the faculty of vision [compare Lubbock, 'Ants, Bees, and Wasps,' ed. 2, p. 75 (1882)]. In most of the published descriptions it is positively stated to be eyeless; and in the remainder no mention of eyes is made at all. Quite recently, however, I have ascertained that it is provided with eyes in the usual situations. Each of them is composed of several well-formed ocelli placed close together in a rounded group; but they are destitute of pigment. It is easy to confound them with the minute bluntly conical asperities with which the general surface of the head is beset. It is as sensitive to light as other Oniscidæ.

In the early part of 1868 Ebner described a genus *Helleria*, allied very closely to *Tylus*, Lat., founding it upon a species indigenous to Corsica, Elba, and Sardinia, which he named *H. brevicornis*. In 1879 Budde-Lund changed the name of the genus to *Syspastus*, doubtless because he supposed *Helleria* to have been preoccupied in zoology. But *Helleria*, Norman, a genus of the Gammaridæ, dates only from December 1868 (and therefore must be renamed); and *Helleria*, Czerny, a genus of the Ægidæ, is more recent still (1870). Consequently *Helleria*, Ebner (1868), has priority, and *Syspastus*, Budde-Lund, takes rank as a synonym. Marschall misprints the name of the author, reading Erber for Ebner.

Chepstow Road, Croydon,
November 15, 1882.

Eaton, A. E. 1882. "LIII.—Note on Platyarthrus Hoffmanseggii, Brandt, and Helleria brevicornis, Ebner, Terrestrial Isopoda." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 10, 458–458. https://doi.org/10.1080/00222938209459750.

View This Item Online: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/94495
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/00222938209459750
Permalink: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/68226

Holding Institution
Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by
Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr 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.

This file was generated 18 February 2024 at 07:59 UTC