

NOTE ON PEDICELLARIA.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, Aug. 8th.

GENTLEMEN,—The bodies named Pedicellariæ found upon the bodies and around the mouths of Echinoderms, have been considered by Oken, Forbes, and Sharpey as special organs of the animals on which they are found. The discovery by myself of a new species (*P. volutarum*), parasitic on the skin of *Voluta vespertilio*, will I think confirm the opinion of Cuvier and Müller, that the bodies in question are independent parasitic organisms. The specimen obtained I have preserved in spirits.

I am, Gentlemen, yours very truly,

ARTHUR ADAMS.

Addendum to Mr. BENSON's Paper on CYCLOSTOMA, in the present Number, page 191.

Dr. Pfeiffer, having examined the original specimen of *Cyclostoma Indicum*, now writes that it has nothing in common with *C. oculus Capri*, and that it is distinct also from *C. Ceylanicum* and *stenomphalum*, to both of which it is allied.

TEREBELLA MEDUSA. BY C. SPENCE BATE.

The manner in which this animal proceeds to construct its case is very interesting to watch. By the long feelers or tentacular cirri which surround its head, anything is grasped with which it may come into contact, such as minute shells, grains of sand, &c. These, upon being drawn near, are placed upon its mouth, the lower edge of which forms a prehensile lip. While resting here, it is, I presume, that the glutinous substance, which, when dried, forms the membranous lining of the tube, is poured over it. With its lip the creature places the sand upon its back, and then rolls itself over from side to side, and again puts forth its tentacula in search of fresh building material.

Their tubes are buried in the sand, to the depth of about a foot or more, with one end above and open to the sea, at which extremity minuter ones branch off, giving it an arborescent appearance.

The tentacular cirri are hollow, crescent-shaped tubes, which are extended and retracted by the injection into its centre of a fluid sent from the body of the animal. [It is a similar power employed by the Nereid Worms to extend the internal mouth of that family.] When it seizes anything, it does so, I presume, by exhausting the water from the convex side of the crescent-shaped tube, and consequently holds by means of the pressure of the surrounding fluid.

Within its case the Annelid has the power of moving freely and turning itself at will. Its progressing movement is performed by means of setæ, or oars, planted in thick muscular sheaths, which enable it to pass freely in one direction, but which, being directed backwards, wholly preclude a retrograde movement. The mechanism by which this latter power is executed, is by means of a long row of minute triple-pointed hooks situated at the base of each set of setæ ;



1851. "Addendum to Mr. Benson's Paper on Cyclostoma, in the present number, page 191." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 8, 237–237. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03745486109496215>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/19557>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/03745486109496215>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/7362>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

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>.