On *Maclovia iricolor* (Montagu).

By

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It is a pity that there should be any doubt as to the legitimacy of the generic and specific names of one of the longest Chaetopoda inhabiting Plymouth Sound, and it seems worth while to devote a special note to its synonymy and identification.

[*Names marked with an asterisk are synonyms.*]

*1. *Nereis iricolor*, Montagu, 1802. Description of several marine animals found on the South Coast of Devonshire. Tr. Linn. Soc., London, VII., Dec., 1802, p. 82.

Montagu found his specimen coiled under a stone among the rocks at Milton. It was the largest specimen of the genus [s.l.] hitherto recorded in British seas, measuring, when extended, about 3 feet in length, with the thickness of a raven's quill. When placed in fresh water it contracted to 1 foot in length, with the thickness of a goose-quill.

*2. *Lumbrineris gigantea*, Quatrefages, 1865. Hist. des Annelés, vol. i. p. 360. Hab. Bréhat; individuals in life measuring upwards of 60 cm.

*3. *Lumbrineris tricolor*, Johnston, 1865. A Catalogue of the British non-parasitical worms, London, p. 142. Hab. South Devon. "One specimen in the Museum Collection is 11 inches in length, and as thick as a large quill."

The parapodia are figured upside down. Johnson mentions "two dark spots obscurely marked, which may be eyes," at the posterior border of the cephalic lobe.

*4. *Arabella tricolor* (Johnst.). Ehlers, 1868. Die Borstenwürmer, pp. 399 and 405.

5. *Notocirrus scoticus*, M'Intosh, 1869 [see also under par. 7]. On the Structure of the British Nemerteans, and some new British Annelids. Tr. R. Soc., Edinb., XXV., p. 417. Points out that at least three species of Lumbrinereidae had been previously recorded in British seas, viz. *Lysidice ninetta* (Aud. Edw.), *Lumbriconereis tricolor* (Mont.), and *Lumbriconereis latreillii* (Aud. Edw.). "The two latter have probably been confounded with the *L. fragilis* of Müller, a species abounding on our northern and southern coasts." *N. scoticus* was taken in 6–9 fathoms in Lochmaddy, and subsequently in several parts of the Hebridean Seas. Body moniliform, much slenderer than *L. fragilis*; head acutely conical, with two eyes; parapodia ligulate; setae uniform.

*6. *Maclovia gigantea* (Qfg.), Grube, 1871. Vorlage einer *Lumbriconereis gigantea* (Qfg.), Jahresber. Schlesisch. Ges. 1871, Breslau, 1872, p. 58. Also Mittheilungen über St. Malo und Roscoff. Abh. Schlesisch. Ges. 1869–1872, Breslau, 1872, p. 86.

Specimen taken at St. Malo 1½ feet long; Grube saw only two eyes.

7. *Notocirrus tricolor* (Johnst.), Ehlers, 1874. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Verticalverbreitung der Borstenwürmer im Meere. Zeitschr. wiss. Zool. XXV., 1875, p. 55, Taf. III. f. 33. Hab. off Galway, in 15–20 fathoms.

This is said to be the *N. scoticus* of M'Intosh [see under par. 5], which Ehlers erroneously identified with Johnston's *Lumbrineris tricolor*. It is described as having an ovate prostomium with two eye-spots; body submoniliform; maxillae I. unequal and without a large terminal claw. The character of the jaws resembles that described and figured by Marion and Bobretzky [Étude des Annélides du Golfe de Marseille. Ann. Sci. nat. (6) II., 1875, p. 15, Pl. I. f. 2] for *Notocirrus geniculatus*, Clpd., and proves conclusively that *N. scoticus* is quite distinct from our species.

*8. *Lumbriconereis iricolor* (Mont.), Grube, 1878. Fortsetzung der Mittheilungen über die Familie Eunicea. II^te^ Abth. Lumbriconereidea Schmarda. Jahresber. Schlesisch. Ges. 1878, Breslau, 1879, p. 87.

Grube here expresses his well-founded suspicion that the specific name "tricolor," given by Johnston, was due to a clerical error in copying a label in Leach's collection. He adds that both Montagu's and Johnston's descriptions indicate that the worm belongs to the genus *Arabella*, and is probably *A. quadristriata*, Gr.

*9. *Notocirrus tricolor* (Johnst.), M'Intosh, 1885. Annelida Polychaeta. Chall. Rep. XII., p. 236. M'Intosh here refers repeatedly to Johnston's species under the above name in continuation of Ehlers's mistaken identification [see above, par. 7].

*10. *Maclovia gigantea* (Qfg.), Saint-Joseph, 1888. Les Annélides Polychètes des côtes de Dinard. Ann. Sci. nat. (7), V., p. 30, Pl. IX. f. 92–95.

Maclovia is here regarded as a sub-genus of *Arabella*, characterised by the presence of five pairs of superior jaw-pieces and tripartite sustentacular apparatus. There are four eyes in the head in a transverse row.

The following will serve as a brief diagnosis of our worm :—

Corpus lumbriconereiforme, long. usque ad 600 mm.; lat. c. 5 mm.

Prostomium sub-ovate, oculis 4 transversa serie.

Segmenta buccalia bina, fere similia.

Pharetrae setarum in lingulas postero-inferiores carneas productae.

Cirrus dorsalis rudimentaris, fasciculo acicularum (5–7) haud emergentium praeditus.

Setae flavae, fere similes, acuminatae, plus minusve limbatae, geniculatae, saepe crenatae, paucae (c. 12).

Aciculae flavae, plures (6–7).

Segmentum anale lobis brevibus 4.

Maxillae I. inaequales (sinistra paullo major) unciformes, basi serrata dentibus c. 10; II. inaequales, dextra fere duplo longior dentibus 12–14, sinistra dentibus 6–7; V. hamuli singuli.

Radices maxillarum (sustentacular apparatus) 3.

Laminae ventrales nigrae edentatae.

The importance of the identification of the above species lies in the fact that it cohabits with a true *Lumbriconereis*, which bears a striking superficial resemblance to the *Maclovia*, but does not attain to the length of the latter. The two forms have often masqueraded under a common denomination.

The *Lumbriconereis* is probably co-specific with *L. latreilli* (Aud. Edw.) and may possess a length of about 6 inches.

It must be left to the future to decide upon the respective merits of *L. latreilli* and *L. fragilis*.

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