

THE AUSTRALIAN EARTHWORM GENUS *SPENCERIELLA* AND DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW GENERA (Megascolecidae: Oligochaeta)

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Abstract

A neotype is designated for a rediscovered specimen of *Diporochoeta notabilis*, the only known material of the type-species of *Spenceriella* Michaelsen. The genus appears to belong to a *Dichogaster-Megascolides* group of genera, though poor preservation precludes certain demonstration of the stomate median meronephridia diagnostic of the group. Specimens from Lord Howe Island are shown to merit recognition of a new genus and species, *Paraplutellus insularis*, closely allied to *Heteroporodrilus* Jamieson and *Plutellus* Perrier on the Australian mainland. The new genus *Simsia* is established to receive six Victorian species assignable in former classifications to *Plutellus*, including the new species *Simsia longwarriensis*. The type-species *S. tuberculata* (Fletcher) is shown to be a senior synonym of *Megascolides roseus* Spenceer. *Paraplutellus* and *Simsia* are members of a *Perionyx* group of genera.

Introduction

The author is currently studying the Baldwin Spencer earthworm collection through the kind co-operation of Dr B. J. Smith and the authorities of the National Museum of Victoria. Attention has initially been directed to resolving the heterogeneous and clearly polyphyletic assemblages *Plutellus* and *Diporochoeta* into distinct and individually more homogeneous groupings. This paper is confined to consideration of four species which in previous classifications would have been assignable to *Plutellus* or *Diporochoeta* but which represent three distinct genera of which two are new to science.

Diporochoeta notabilis Spencer, 1900, was made the type-species of a new genus *Spenceriella* by Michaelsen (1907). With *D. notabilis* were included the two Victorian species, *D. maplestoni* Spencer, 1900, and tentatively *Perichaeta lateralis* Spencer, 1892b, and also the two New Zealand species *Diporochoeta gigantea* Benham, 1906, and *D. shakespearei* Benham, 1906. *S. shakespearei* was shown by Lee (1962) to be a junior synonym of *S.* (formerly *Megascolex*) *antarctica* (Baird, 1871). Lee (1959) added two further species from New Zealand, *S. argillae* and *S. pallida*, bringing the generic total to seven species.

Michaelsen erected *Spenceriella* for species with more than eight setae per segment, one to three pairs of spermathecal pores, a gizzard in

segment V, meronephridia, and tubular prostate glands with unbranched lumen. This superficial definition (which ignored morphological heterogeneity in other respects) and the disjunct geographical distribution, has resulted in a polyphyletic genus. Revision of the genus and elucidation of the affinities of the included species necessitates examination of the type-species. Jenz and Smith (1969) stated that the type specimens had presumably been lost and no other specimens of the species were known. The author has examined an unidentified perichaetine specimen from the type locality, Dimboola, Victoria, and finds it to be unequivocally identifiable as *Spenceriella* (= *Diporochoeta*) *notabilis*. As it is not possible to prove indisputably that it is part of the lost type series, and because of its significance for revision of the genus and for nomenclatural stability, it is here designated a neotype. This specimen is described below, and its significance discussed.

It has been shown (Jamieson 1970, 1971b) that the large circummundane genus *Plutellus* must be restricted to only two of the known species, *Plutellus heteroporus* Perrier, 1873, and *Plutellus manifestus* (Fletcher, 1889). Resolution of the remaining congeries has been commenced (Jamieson 1971a) by resurrection of *Fletcherodrilus* Michaelsen, 1891. In the present study a group of Victorian species which were formerly ascribable to *Plutellus* will be

shown to warrant recognition as a distinct new genus.

A previously unidentified species from Lord Howe Island, assignable to *Plutellus* sensu Stephenson 1930, will be shown to represent a new monotypic genus allied to *Heteropodrilus* Jamieson, 1970, and to *Plutellus* s. str.

Systematics

Genus Spenceriella Michaelsen, 1907
Spenceriella notabilis (Spencer, 1900)

Fig. 1 D-H.

Diporochoeta notabilis Spencer, 1900: 57-58, Pl. 10, figs. 76-78.

Spenceriella notabilis; Michaelsen, 1907: 161.

l = 36 mm, w (midclitellar) = 3 mm, s = 116. Form fairly stout, circular in transverse section throughout, lacking secondary annulation. Prostomium epilobous 3/4 open and almost parallel-sided, the lateral margins perhaps continuous as faint grooves to intersegment 1/2, i.e. possibly tanylobous. First dorsal pore 4/5 (?), as noted by Spencer. Setae perichactine commencing in II, the setal rings interrupted dorsally and ventrally in the midline except posteriorly where *b* lines become irregular. Numbers of setae in XII: 11 (left), 11 (right); in XXV: 11 (left), 10 (right); at the posterior end 12 (left), 10 (right). Nephropores not externally visible. Clitellum poorly developed, annular, on XIV-XVI but intersegments 13/14 and 16/17, like those between, arc faint, suggesting that when fully developed the clitellum would occupy at least part of XIII and XVII; dorsal pores, intersegmental furrows and setae retained. Male pores represented by a pair of indistinct papillae on XVIII approximately in *a* lines. Accessory genital markings a pair of elliptical dark glandular areas in X, XIX, XX immediately lateral of *a* lines, those in X and XX with depressed elliptical centres with narrow pale rims, possibly also represented on XVIII in *b* line on the right side. Female pores minute orifices median and slightly anterior of setae *a* of XIV in a common elliptical slightly tumid field. Spermathecal pores represented by a single pair of elliptical intersegmental markings in 7/8, about as wide as *ab* in which their centres lie very slightly median of *b*.

Septal thickening: 5/6 and 6/7 slight, 7/8

and 8/9 moderate, 9/10—12/13 fairly strong, 13/14 and 14/15 slight, the remainder thin. Last pharyngeal glands in V, overlying the gizzard. Dorsal blood vessel single, fragmented but apparently continuous onto the pharynx. Dorsoventral commissural vessels paired in VI-XII; those in X-XII forming rather narrow hearts, each of which is latero-oesophageal, arising from the dorsal vessel but also receiving a connective from a calciferous vessel where the latter joins a narrow supra-oesophageal vessel. The calciferous vessel circumscribes and receives vessels from the corresponding calciferous gland. Supra-oesophageal restricted to X-XII. A latero-oesophageal vessel on each side supplies the calciferous glands. Gizzard large, firm and barrel shaped, in V. Calciferous glands four pairs, in X-XIII, each a large anteroposteriorly depressed lobe filling the space between the hearts and the oesophagus in X-XII and communicating with the oesophagus by the narrowed ventromedian portion of the gland, which forms a short duct; each gland with approximately 24 radial septa most of which unite centrally. Intestine commencing, with abrupt expansion and a narrow oesophageal valve, in XV. Typhlosole and muscular thickening absent.

Nephridia: meronephridia, not sufficiently well preserved to allow confirmation of Spencer's observation of pharyngeal nephridia. At the posterior end of the body preservation is generally inadequate for determination of nephridial morphology beyond recognition of several rows of meronephridia on each side but in one segment the nephridium nearest the nerve cord was observed to have a preseptal funnel. Testes and funnels not visible but holandry indicated by the presence of racemose seminal vesicles in IX and XII. Prostates racemose, bipartite with a small anterior and larger posterior lobe and short muscular duct; surface slightly lobulated; the exact form uncertain owing to partial fragmentation; no central lumen detectable in transverse serial sections. Ovaries (elongate wisps consisting of several chains of oocytes) and funnels in XIII. Spermathecae a single pair, in VIII; each with a sac-like ampulla approximately four times as long as wide, which is joined ectally, without the intervention of a

separate duct, by a lateral digitiform diverticulum which is longer than the ampulla. Length of right spermatheca = 0.98 mm; ratio of total length: length of diverticulum = 0.7.

Material examined: A single imperfectly clitellate specimen labelled only 'Dimboola, Victoria, Oct. 1892', Nat. Mus. Vict. G353, here designated a neotype.

Remarks: The above account considerably augments and closely accords with that of Spencer (1900). The only noteworthy departures of the newly examined material from Spencer's description are the racemose as opposed to tubular prostates and the intestinal origin in XV and not in XVI.

There is no evidence that Michaelsen examined specimens of *Diporochoeta notabilis* and his characterisation of the genus by tubular prostates presumably derived from Spencer's description of these glands as 'coiled, tubular'. Their lobular ('racemose') nature has been demonstrated above. Branching of the prostatic lumen renders *Spenceriella* indistinguishable from *Megascolex* as defined by Michaelsen (1907) but there is no reason to consider that *S. notabilis* is in fact congeneric with the type-species of *Megascolex*, *M. caeruleus* Templeton, 1844, from Ceylon. *Spenceriella* is therefore retained. It is questionable, however, whether other species assigned to the genus are congeneric with the type species.

*Simsia** gen. nov.

Prostomium variable, epilobous to tanylobous. First dorsal pore in or behind 4/5. Setae eight per segment, commencing on segment II, the rows sometimes becoming irregular posteriorly, ventral setal couples (*ab*) wide (the median ventral interval *aa* < 3 *ab*), dorsal setal couples (*cd*) wider than *ab* but much narrower than the distance (*bc*) between the two setal couples, dorsal median intersetal distance (*dd*) 0.3 — 0.5 of the circumference (*u*). Nephropores inconspicuous, or unrecognizable, in approximately straight series on each side in the vicinity of *c* lines but those of the tufted nephridia typically further dorsally. Clitellum

* The genus is named after my friend and colleague, R. W. Sims, Curator of annelids, British Museum (Natural History).

annular, not extending behind the male pores. A pair of combined male and prostatic pores on XVIII; the prostates thickly tubular, sometimes with lobulated surface; prostate duct muscular, lacking distinct ectal dilatation. Penial setae present or absent. Accessory genital markings present. Spermathecal pores two ventral pairs, segmental or at the anterior border of their segments, the posterior pair on IX.

Some preclitellar septa thickened. Gizzard well developed, in V. Oesophagus strongly dilated in XV and XVI to form two unpaired annular (calciferous?) glands, sometimes with lesser dilatation in XVII, intestine commencing in XVIII, XIX or XX; muscular thickening absent, lamelliform dorsal typhlosole present. Supra-oesophageal vessel present. Dorsal vessel single. Dorsoventral commissural vessels extending from the gizzard, or anterior to this, to XII; those in X-XII forming latero-oesophageal hearts, receiving connectives from the supra-oesophageal and the dorsal vessel. Nephridia stomate, avesciculate holonephridia with the exception that those in a few anterior segments are tufted, meronephric (always?) and typically, at least, have composite ducts; the tufts sometimes preceded by one or two pairs of small holonephridia. Testes and funnels free in X and XI; seminal vesicles in IX and XII; or the first pair of testes, funnels and seminal vesicles reduced or absent. Ovaries and funnels in XIII. Ovisacs in XIV (not known in *eucalypti*). Spermathecae with saccular ampullae at the ectal limit of which is a sessile internally multiloculate subspherical diverticulum (In *S. narrensis* possibly shortly clavate and not known to be multiloculate); the duct long and coiled, or concealed in the body wall.

DIAGNOSIS: Nephridia stomate avesciculate holonephridia except in a few anterior segments which have tufted nephridia with (always?) composite ducts. Nephropores of holonephridia in a single series on each side. Unpaired annular (calciferous?) dilatations of the oesophagus in XV and XVI, XVII. Dorsal intestinal typhlosole present. Spermathecae two pairs, each with a small sessile internally multiloculate diverticulum.

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Subregion, Koscius-

kan Division, S. Southern Faunal Province of Kikkawa and Pearse (1969), in the vicinity of Warragul, Victoria, between lat. 145° and 146° S., long. 38° and 39° W.

TYPE SPECIES: *Notoscolex tuberculatus* Fletcher, 1888a. (syn. *Megascolides roseus* Spencer, 1892a)

OTHER SPECIES:

Megascolides eucalypti Spencer, 1900
Cryptodrilus intermedius Spencer, 1892
Simsia longwarriensis n. sp.
Megascolides manui Spencer, 1892
Cryptodrilus narrensis Spencer, 1892

The diagnosis indicates the striking morphological homogeneity of the species here included in *Simsia*. The phenetic unity of the group is unquestionable and, notwithstanding the acceptability of polythetic groups, future inclusion in the genus of species departing in one or more characters from the diagnosis would probably require recognition of separate subgenera if it were indeed justifiable.

Simsia differs from *Plutellus* s. str. in numerous respects, including the absence of stalked calciferous glands, of a complex alternation of nephropores, of nephridial bladders and in the presence of tufted (and apparently meronephric) nephridia and of a typhlosole. From the N. American species of *Plutellus* (other than the supposedly Pennsylvannian *P. heteroporus*) *Simsia* differs in the location of the oesophageal dilatations, presence of tufted nephridia and the more regular arrangement of nephropores. The N. American species will have to assume the oldest available generic name, *Argilophilus* Eisen, after restriction of *Plutellus* to *P. heteroporus* (the type species) and *P. manifestus*.

The frequent alternation or irregularity of nephropores in *Argilophilus*, especially the regular alternation in *b* and *d* beginning with segment IX in *Plutellus davisi* MacNab and McKey-Fender, 1953, suggests affinity of *Argilophilus* with the *Plutellus* s. str.—*Heteropordrilus*—*Paraplutellus* group of genera despite the presence of nephridial bladders in the latter group. On the other hand the general anatomy of *Argilophilus* is sufficiently close to indicate an affinity with *Simsia* closer than that with

other megascoleoid genera despite separation of the two groups by the Pacific. The diversity of plutelloid genera in Australia, considered with the Pacific seaboard focus of endemicity of *Argilophilus*, perhaps suggests invasion of America from Australia or its vicinity. If this were by a Gondwanaland connection, the failure of *Argilophilus* to subsequently spread more widely in America is remarkable. The alternative of recent invasion across the Pacific (for instance by rafting or transportation) may be rejected in view of the diversity of species and evidence of subspeciation in America (MacNab and McKey-Fender 1960).

Simsia tuberculata (Fletcher, 1888)

Figs. 2 A-C, 3 A-B, E, H-I, L-N

Notoscolex tuberculatus Fletcher, 1888, pp. 611-614.
Megascolides tuberculatus; Spencer, 1892a: 156; Beddard 1895, p. 494.
Plutellus tuberculatus; Michaelsen, 1900, p. 168.
Megascolides roseus Spencer, 1892a, pp. 153-154, Pl. 18, figs. 58-60, Pl. 19, fig. 81, Beddard 1895, p. 491, Sweet 1900, p. 112.

1 = 140 mm (160 + mm in the posterior amputee of *M. roseus*), w (segment XVIII *tuberculatus*, or midelitelar, *roseus*) = 7 mm, s = 165 (*tuberculatus*), 88 (*roseus*). Circular in cross section throughout, posterior end clubbed, secondary annulation very distinct commencing in IV. Pigmentless buff in alcohol with the exception of the clitellum which is pigmented pale reddish brown. Prostomium epilobous 1/2, or (*roseus*) pro-epilobous, but connected with intersegment 1/2 by two longitudinal grooves which would confer a tanylobous condition on the prostomium were other longitudinal grooves not present on the peristomium. First dorsal pore 12/13. Setae indistinct, in eight regular longitudinal rows throughout, beginning on II; the ventral couples absent in XVIII.

Nephropores not externally visible (*tuberculatus*) or (*roseus*) visible in a single series on each side, in *cd* nearer *c*, near the anterior borders of their segments, from IV posteriorly. Clitellum not developed in *tuberculatus*; in *roseus* annular, strongly protuberant, embracing the posterior 1/3 XIII to the anterior 1/3 XVIII but interrupted ventrally by the genital markings in XVII and XVIII; intersegmental

TABLE 1
INTERSETAL DISTANCES IN SEGMENT XII
IN *Simsia tuberculata*

	aa		ab		bc		cd		dd		dd:u
	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	
<i>N. tuberculatus</i> intervals/ab	2.21	13.64	0.61	3.79	2.33	14.39	0.88	5.41	6.35	39.18	
		3.60		1.00		3.80		1.43		10.34	0.39
<i>M. roseus</i> intervals/ab	2.29	12.12	0.71	3.79	2.43	12.88	0.89	4.73	8.50	45.08	
		3.20		1.00		3.40		1.25		11.90	0.45

* Standardized to a periphery of 100.

furrows indicated, though weakly; setae and nephropores retained; dorsal pores absent. Male genital field: male pores a pair in XVIII, minute points in *ab* (*tuberculatus*) or one in *b* and the other lateral of *b* (*roseus*), each on a small, low papilla; accessory genital markings consisting of a large median boss in XVIII between the male pores and paired markings with peripheral rim and raised central area the centre of which usually displays a pore or slit, located presetally in XVII and XX, XXI and XXII (*tuberculatus*) or XVII and XX only (*roseus*; observed in XVII, XX-XXIII by Spencer); the markings in XVII and XX in *ab*, those in XXI centred on *a* lines and those in XXII with their centres slightly median of *a* lines; the two presetal markings on each segment impinging slightly on the preceding segment and connected by a transverse glandular band. Female pores a pair in XIV, immediately in front of the setal are and separated by about 1/3 *aa*, both in a common glandular field. Spermathecal pores two pairs, located segmentally, in VIII and IX immediately in front of the setal are shortly lateral of *a* lines; each on a small elliptical papilla.

Septa: 3/4-5/6 very thin, 5/6 being displaced posteriorly by the gizzard; 6/7 slightly (*tuberculatus*) to moderately strongly thickened (*roseus*), 7/8-12/13 strongly thickened, 9/10 being the thickest; 13/14-14/15 (*roseus*), 15/16 (*tuberculatus*) slightly thickened; the remainder thin. Last septal (pharyngeal) glands anterior in IV. Dorsal blood vessel single, continuous onto the pharynx, dorsoventral commissurals in (IV?) V-XII; those in X-XII forming three pairs of large latero-oesophageal

hearts, each receiving a connective from the dorsal vessel and from a supra-oesophageal vessel. Supra-oesophageal present in VIII (?) (*tuberculatus*)—or IX (*roseus*)—XIII, seen in *tuberculatus* to be double in XI-XIII, and to receive in each of XII and XIII two pairs of large vessels running circumferentially on the oesophagus which is here vascularized though not widened. In XIV one pair of thick vessels from the vascular and dilated oesophagus joins the dorsal vessel and an indistinct anterior pair of oesophageal vessels probably feeds the supra-oesophageal vessels which abut on septum 13/14 (*tuberculatus*). Subcurial vessel absent (both specimens). Large posteriorly running latero-parietals originating below the oesophagus in XIII (*roseus*).

Pharynx abutting posteriorly on septum 3/4; a croplike muscular but compressible proventriculus in IV; gizzard large, firmly muscular, elongate-globose in V (septum 5/6 so attenuated over the gizzard as to be almost unrecognizable). Oesophagus narrow to XIV, greatly dilated and strongly vascularized in XV and XVI to form two unpaired annular calciferous (?) glands each of which gives two pairs of vessels to the dorsal blood vessel, the dilatations thin walled, with internally low longitudinal vascular folds surrounding the capacious oesophageal lumen; the glands not constricted off or separated from the oesophagus. Oesophagus wide and vascularized throughout XVII, though narrower than in XVI, the intestine commencing in XVIII (both specimens). Intestine lacking muscular thickening but with a thickly laminar dorsal typhlosole commencing in segment XXIX-XXX.

of the duct. Penial setae slender, ectally slightly curved, the tip pointed in profile but fairly broad when viewed from above; the ectal region bearing scattered cicatricing; lengths of two setae 0.95 and 1.2 mm, width of the shafts at the ectal fourth 20μ (*tuberculatus*). In *roseus* the penial setae are closely similar; the cicatricing of the ectal sixth consists of a series of several notches each of which corresponds with an irregular transverse serration encircling half or less of the circumference of the seta; length of a mature seta 1.05 mm, width shaft 20μ . Bushy ovaries (with many strings of large oocytes) and delicate pleated funnels in XIII; ovisacs present on the anterior face of XIV (*roseus*).

Spermathecae each with a large saccular ampulla and well demarcated, narrow, tortuous, muscular duct which extended approximately equals the ampulla in length, and a subspherical somewhat lobulated diverticulum sessile on the duct shortly ectal of the ampulla. Uniform in size, in IX (right side) length extended = 4.3 mm, ratio total length: length duct = 2.1, ratio total length: length diverticulum = 9.4 (*tuberculatus*).

Material examined: A mature but acitellate undissected specimen labelled 'Megascolides tuberculatus Fletcher. Jar 5', Nat. Mus. Vict. G172, probably part of the type series which is missing from the Australian Museum; here designated a lectotype. An acitellate undissected specimen labelled (apparently in Spencer's writing) 'Megascolides roseus', Victoria, and curatorially 'Plutellus roseus', Australian Museum Sydney W1278, probably part of the type series which Jensz and Smith (1969) were unable to locate in the National Museum of Victoria.

Simsia intermedia (Spencer, 1892)

Fig. 2E, 3F-G, K.

Cryptodrilus intermedius Spencer, 1892a, pp. 133-134, Pl. 14, figs. 4-6, Pl. 19, fig. 64.

Cryptodrilus intermedius, Beddard 1895, p. 492.

Plutellus intermedius, Michaelsen 1900, p. 170.

Megascolides intermedius, Sweet 1900, pp. 110-111.

1 = 98, 220 and 105 mm, w (midclitellar) = 5, 5 and 4 mm, s = 172, 175 and 178 (G58, G86 and G1406 respectively). Form moderately slender, posteriorly clubbed, segments of the forebody at first biannulate, and subsequently triannulate to quadriannulate. Pigmentless buff in alcohol. Prostomium epilobous < 1/3 closed (G86 and G1406; indeterminable in G58). First dorsal pore 4/5 (imperforate G1406), or 5/6 (G58, G86, perforate as in G1406). Setae eight per segment, commencing on II, all rows except *a* irregular at the posterior end; *ab* absent, *cd* present, in XVIII; individual setae sporadically displaced in some anterior segments in some specimens.

Nephropores not externally visible (G58, G1406) or visible in *c* lines (G86). Clitellum not developed (G58, G1406) or well developed, annular, on the posterior 1/3 XIII to anterior 1/3 XVIII; nephropores, dorsal pores, setae and intersegmental furrows retained. Male pores minute slits on dome-shaped papillae in *ab* of XVIII, both surrounded by a median tumescent genital marking which extends from 1/4 XVII to 1/3 XX (G86) or to 2/3 XX (G58, G1406) and slightly above *b* in XVII, XVIII and XIX and barely reaching *a* or *b* in XX. Intersegmental furrows and secondary annulation continuous across the genital marking though weak when this is well developed. Female pores minute transverse slits median to and slightly anterior to setae *a* of XIV, on the anterior region of the setal annulus. Spermathecal pores on two pairs of small hemis-

TABLE 2
INTERSETAL DISTANCES IN SEGMENT XII IN

	<i>Simsia intermedia</i>											
	aa		ab		bc		cd		dd		dd:u	
	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st		
G58	1.29	9.82	0.57	4.34	1.79	13.60	0.71	5.41	5.71	43.49	0.43	
G1406	1.29	10.69	0.50	4.14	1.50	12.43	0.54	4.47	5.71	47.31	0.47	
G72	1.29	9.71	0.64	4.82	1.50	11.29	0.79	5.94	6.14	46.20	0.46	
G86	1.29	10.62	0.50	4.12	1.57	12.93	0.64	5.27	5.43	44.73	0.45	
mean st.		10.21		4.36		12.56		5.27		45.43	0.45	
mean/ab		2.34		1.00		2.88		1.21		10.42		

pheroidal papillae at the anterior borders of segments VIII and IX but displaced into inter-segments 7/8 and 8/9 in *a* lines; the preceding setal annulus slightly bowed anteriorly in their vicinity (all examined specimens).

Internal anatomy (G1406, G86). Septal thickening: 5/6 extremely thin; 6/7-12/13 very strong, 6/7 and 12/13 less strong than the others; 13/14 moderate; 14/15 and 15/16 slightly thickened. Last pharyngeal glands anterior in IV. Dorsal blood vessel single. Dorsoven-tral commissural vessels in VI-XII; those in VI-IX originating only from the dorsal vessel; those in X-XII forming large latero-oesophageal hearts arising from the supra-oesophageal vessel and from the dorsal vessel. Supra-oesophageal vessel in VIII-XIII. Subneural vessel (?). Gizzard large, barrel shaped, strongly muscular though fairly easily compressible, in V; preceded in IV by a muscular compressible pro-ventriculus (crop) which is gizzardlike in appearance. Oesophagus not evidently vascularized in VI and VII; from VIII-XIV moniliform and with circumferential vascular striae; in XV and XVI greatly widened and vascularized giving in each segment two pairs of large vessels to the dorsal vessel and conspicuously visible on opening the animal whereas the preceding region of the oesophagus is concealed in thick funnel shaped septa; the internal walls of these dilatations covered by innumerable large rounded villi; oesophagus in XVII similarly dilated in its anterior half but narrow in the posterior half and in XVIII. Intestine commencing in XIX with abrupt expansion; muscular thickening absent; a deep dorsal typhlosole present, commencing at approximately segment XXVI (G1406, G86).

Nephridia exonephric holonephridia throughout with the exception of those in II, III and IV which form exonephric meronephric tufts with composite ducts; those in V-VII large and coiled but with simple ducts; preseptal funnels demonstrated for nephridia of VIII posteriorly but septal connectives (necks of nephrostomes?) observed from segment II; bladders absent (G1406—Horan pers. comm.).

Moderately large iridescent sperm funnels in XI, very small non-iridescent funnels in X, racemose seminal vesicles in XII only

(G1406), the anterior sperm funnels absent in G86. Prostates short tortuous tubes with adpressed coils of irregular cross section, in XVIII and XIX; each with a very short muscular duct the surface of the gland in G1406 minutely and copiously lobulated. Penial setae absent, unpaired glandular masses present medianly and partly obscuring the prostate ducts, correspond with the external genital markings. Ovaries (large, palmate, with many terminal chains of large oocytes) and funnels in XIII, ovisacs present in XIV. Spermathecae two pairs, uniform in size, discharging anteriorly in their segment; the ampulla elongate-ovoid, about four times as long as wide, almost sessile on the body wall, there being virtually no extramural spermathecal duct; a large subspherical but dorsoventrally depressed multioculate iridescent diverticulum present at the ectal end, and as wide as the ectal end of the ampulla (G1406, G86). Length of the anterior spermathecae of VIII = 2.3 mm; ratio length spermatheca: length diverticulum = 8.5 (G1406).

Material examined: From S. Warragul, Vict., coll. W. Mann, July 1891: Nat. Mus. Vict. G58 (one aclitellate specimen); G1406 (six aclitellate specimens of which one was used for the above description); July 1892, G86 (four clitellate and six aclitellate specimens plus fragments). Locality unknown, G72 (two much dissected clitellate specimens).

Remarks: G58 was designated the lectotype and G1406 paralectotypes by Jenz and Smith (1969). G58 and four of G1406 have male genital fields which agree closely with the above description, while one has a weakly developed field which is not certainly identifiable and the sixth lacks a field. Specimens of both species differ from the type description (Spencer 1892a) in being aclitellate and in being shorter than the seven inches given by Spencer. A label with G58 in Spencer's writing reads 'Young of *C. intermedius*'. Designation of G58 as lectotype and of G1406 (from the same original series) as paralectotypes is therefore invalid.

The series G86, consisting of clitellate specimens which conform in size and anatomy with Spencer's account and which are referred to in Spencer's manuscript notes as 'MSS', would

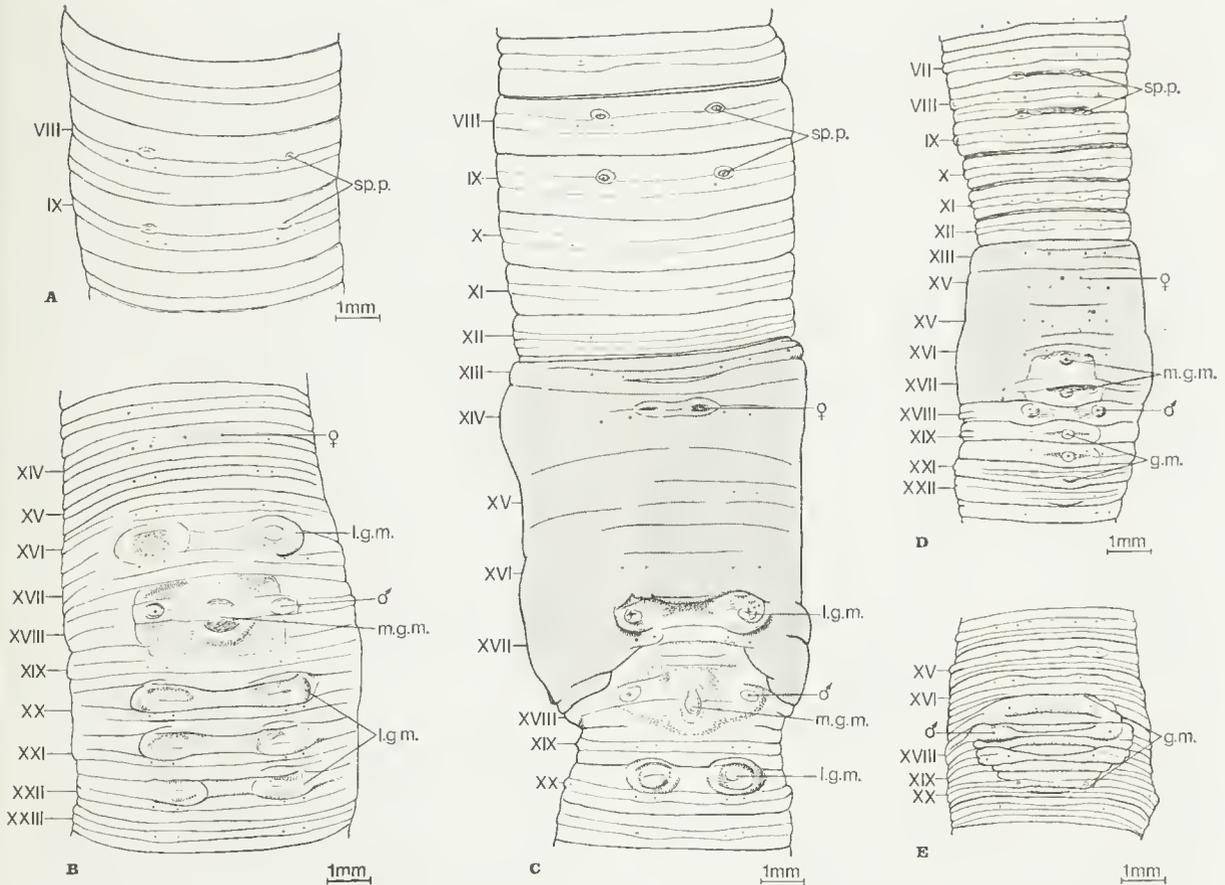


Fig. 2—A-C, *Simsia tuberculata* lectotype G172. A, spermathecal pores. B, male genital field. C, junior synonym *Megascolides roseus* W1278, ventral view of genital fields. D, *Simsia longwarriensis* n. sp. Holotype, ventral view of genital fields. E, *Simsia intermedia* paralectotype G58, male genital field. All by camera lucida. Clitellum shaded.

appear to be the type series. The series cannot at present be considered lectotypic, however, as a museum label gives the data 'South War-ragul, July 1892', post-dating the type description. It is nevertheless probable that the date is an error of transcription for July 1891.

A specimen of G72 has been examined externally and agrees closely with the above description. Only its intersetal ratios have, however, been included therein. This material would not appear to be part of the type series as it includes a label in Spencer's hand which reads '*C. intermedius* (?) two different forms? . . .', the remainder being only partly legible. There are two further specimens of *C. intermedius* in the Australian Museum (W1284) which have

not been seen by the author. These were identified by Spencer and are possibly part of the type series, although not so designated.

Simsia longwarriensis n. sp.

Fig. 2D, 3C-D, J.

1 = 62 mm, w (midclitellar) = 4.6 mm, s = 129. Pigmentless, buff in alcohol. Form moderately stout, circular in cross section throughout, the posterior end clubbed. Prostomium very wide, parallel-sided, tanylobous; not canaliculate; the peristomium short. First dorsal pore 11/12. Setae in eight regular longitudinal lines throughout, commencing on II; setae *ab* absent, *bc* present in XVIII.

TABLE 3
INTERSETAL DISTANCES IN SEGMENT XII
IN *Simsia longwarriensis* (holotype)

intervals/ab	aa		ab		bc		cd		dd		dd:u
	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	
	0.88	8.19	0.50	4.59	1.53	14.26	0.95	8.85	3.9	36.39	
		1.79		1.00		3.10		1.92		7.93	0.36

Nephropores not externally visible. Clitellum annular, moderately protuberant; embracing XIII—XVII and dorsally 1/3 XVIII, paler (and weaker?) ventrally between setae *b* of XVI and XVII. Male genital field, a pair of small male porophores in *b* lines and equatorial in XVIII; median genital markings consisting of single, median circular papillae each with a central pore, equatorial in each of segments XVI, XVII, XIX–XXI, and a slight corresponding tumescence in XXII. A suggestion of paired markings in XVI and XVII behind setae *a*. Female pores minute, anteromedian to setae *a* of XIV (seen on right only). Spermathecal pores 2 pairs of conspicuous ellipses in *a* lines, in 7/8 and 8/9.

Septa: 3/4–7/8 thin; 8/9 moderately thickened; 9/10–13/14 fairly strongly thickened, the thickness increasing to 11/12 and then decreasing; the remainder thin. Pharyngeal glands large lobes excepting the last which are small masses in IV (?). Dorsal blood vessel single, very narrow at the pharynx. Dorsoventral commissural vessels in IV (ventral connection verified) to XII; those in IV–XI slender, though increasing in thickness posteriorly; those in X–XII forming large latero-oesophageal hearts, each receiving a connective from the dorsal vessel and from a supra-oesophageal vessel where this receives a pair of circum-oesophageal intramural vessels. Supra-oesophageal vessel single, in X–XII and receiving a pair of vessels posteriorly from circum-oesophageal intramural vessels in XIII. Subneural vessel absent.

Gizzard large, globose and strongly muscular in V (septum 5/6 so attenuated as to be almost unrecognizable); proventriculus absent. Oesophagus suppressed by backward extension of the gizzard in VI and VII; narrow in VIII; moniliform and vascularized, though narrow, in IX–XIV; greatly expanded in XV and XVI to form

two annular (calciferous?) glands; the walls of each gland thrown into numerous ridges, which end freely in the cavity of the gland; the glands not subdivided from the narrow oesophageal lumen. Oesophagus narrow in XVII; intestine beginning, with abrupt expansion, in XVIII; a very large thickly laminar dorsal typhlosole present, filling almost the entire height of the intestinal lumen, commencing in XXI; muscular thickening and caeca absent.

Nephridia in VI, posteriorly, stomate avesculate holonephridia with preseptal funnels, the slender ectal ducts penetrating the parietes in *c* lines. Large tufted nephridia consisting of many spiral loops in V anteriorly, the entire mass apparently discharging by a single (composite?) duct on each side well above *d* lines, at intersegment 2/3 (1/2?). Testes, non-iridescent funnels and copious free sperm masses in X and XI; seminal vesicles elongate, strongly racemose, in IX and XII. Prostates restricted to an enlarged segment XVIII; tubular and very tortuous, the folds lobulated, adpressed and flattened in contact so that the gland is compacted into a single mass which bears a superficial resemblance to a racemose prostate and, from its lobulation and the irregularity of the cross section, may be considered intermediate in form between the tubular and racemose types. Vasa deferentia joining the gland shortly ental of its junction with the muscular duct which is looped once. Penial setae absent. Accessory genital markings represented internally by villous median glandular masses in XVI–XXI. Ovaries bushy masses in XIII together with small funnels; ovisacs large laminae, with several chains of large oocytes in XIV well above the oviducal funnels on the anterior septum of XIV. Spermathecae two pairs, relatively very large, the anterior pair reflexed into VII, each with an ovoid ampulla and a narrow coiled

almost equally long duct, a multiloculate sessile iridescent diverticulum attached to the junction of ampulla and duct. Posterior spermathecae larger than the anterior. Length of right spermatheca of IX (extended) = 4.3 mm, ratio total length spermatheca: length duct = 2.2, ratio total length: length diverticulum = 18.6.

Material examined: A single specimen, here designated the holotype, Longwarry S. via Drouin, Vict., coll. J. T. Ryan, 14 Aug. 1904, *Nat. Mus. Vict.* G1552.

Paraplutellus gen. nov.

Prostomium tanylobous. Dorsal pores present. Setae eight per segment, in regular longitudinal rows, commencing on II; ventral setal couples (*ab*) wide, dorsal setal couples (*cd*) at least twice as wide, and wider than the intervening distance (*bc*); dorsal median setal distance (*dd*) 0.2 of the circumference (*u*). Nephropores large, first in *d* lines (segments II-IV); then in *c* lines for one or two segments; thereafter alternating between *d* and *b* lines. Clitellum annular, on XIV-XVI. A pair of combined male and prostatic pores on XVIII in *b* lines: the prostates with thickly tubular glands and muscular, ectally dilated ducts. Penial setae and accessory genital markings present. Spermathecal pores five pairs, the last at the anterior margin of IX.

Some preclitellar septa thickened. Gizzards absent. A pair of sessile extramural calciferous glands in XIII; intestine commencing in XVI; muscular thickening and typhlosole absent. Supra-oesophageal vessel present. Dorsoventral commissural vessels in VI-XII; those in X-XII forming large latero-oesophageal hearts which receive connectives from the supra-oesophageal vessel and from the dorsal vessel. Nephridia stoma holonephridia; the duct of each with a large diverticulate ectal bladder. Testes and funnels free in X and XI; seminal vesicles in IX and XII. Ovaries and funnels in XIII; ovisacs absent. Spermathecae discharging anteriorly in their segments; each with a single diverticulum.

DIAGNOSIS: Holonephric with large nephridial bladders; nephropores in a few anterior segments in *d* lines, then in *c* lines, and thereafter

(from VI or VII) alternating from *d* to *b* lines. Sessile calciferous glands present. Combined pores of a pair of (tubular) prostates and the vasa deferentia in XVIII.

DISTRIBUTION: Lord Howe Island, lt. 31° 31' S., long., 159° 04' E.

TYPE SPECIES: *Paraplutellus insularis* n. sp.

Remarks: Lord Howe Island is 700 km. NE. of Sydney, Australia, but is a true oceanic island separated from the mainland by the Tasman Abyssal Plain at a depth of 4,900 m. It lies on a rise which is covered by about 1,200 m. of water and which joins the Coral Sea Platform in the N. and the S. Island of New Zealand in the South. It is largely volcanic, with lavas considered to be of Pliocene to Pleistocene age but even with the post-glacial rise in sea level much of the island remained exposed (Standard 1967) and therefore the terrestrial fauna may date at least from the Pleistocene and possibly from an earlier period. Endemicity of *Paraplutellus* on this isolated island is, however, questionable and the possibility of introduction from E. Australia, where its near relatives *Plutellus manifestus* and *Heteropodrilus* are endemic, cannot be dismissed.

Paraplutellus forms with *Plutellus* s. str. (Jamieson 1971b) and *Heteropodrilus* Jamieson (1970) a highly distinct group characterized by a more or less complex alternation of nephropores on each side of the body and presence of very large subspherical nephridial vesicles. The alternation of nephropores in *Paraplutellus* is distinctive of the genus and yet is intermediate between the arrangements in the other two genera. Like *Heteropodrilus*, the pores lie in *d* lines in segments II-IV or V and then in *c* lines for a few segments but whereas in *Heteropodrilus* alternation from *b* to *d* lines commences within one or two segments of X, it commences in VI or VII in *Paraplutellus* as in *Plutellus* s. str. In the latter genus the pores in V or VI anteriorly are in *c* lines only.

Paraplutellus also resembles *Plutellus* in possessing tubular prostates (these glands are racemose in *Heteropodrilus*) and in the ectal dilatation of their ducts.

Setal ratios are closely similar in the three genera; the ventral setae (*ab*) are widely paired

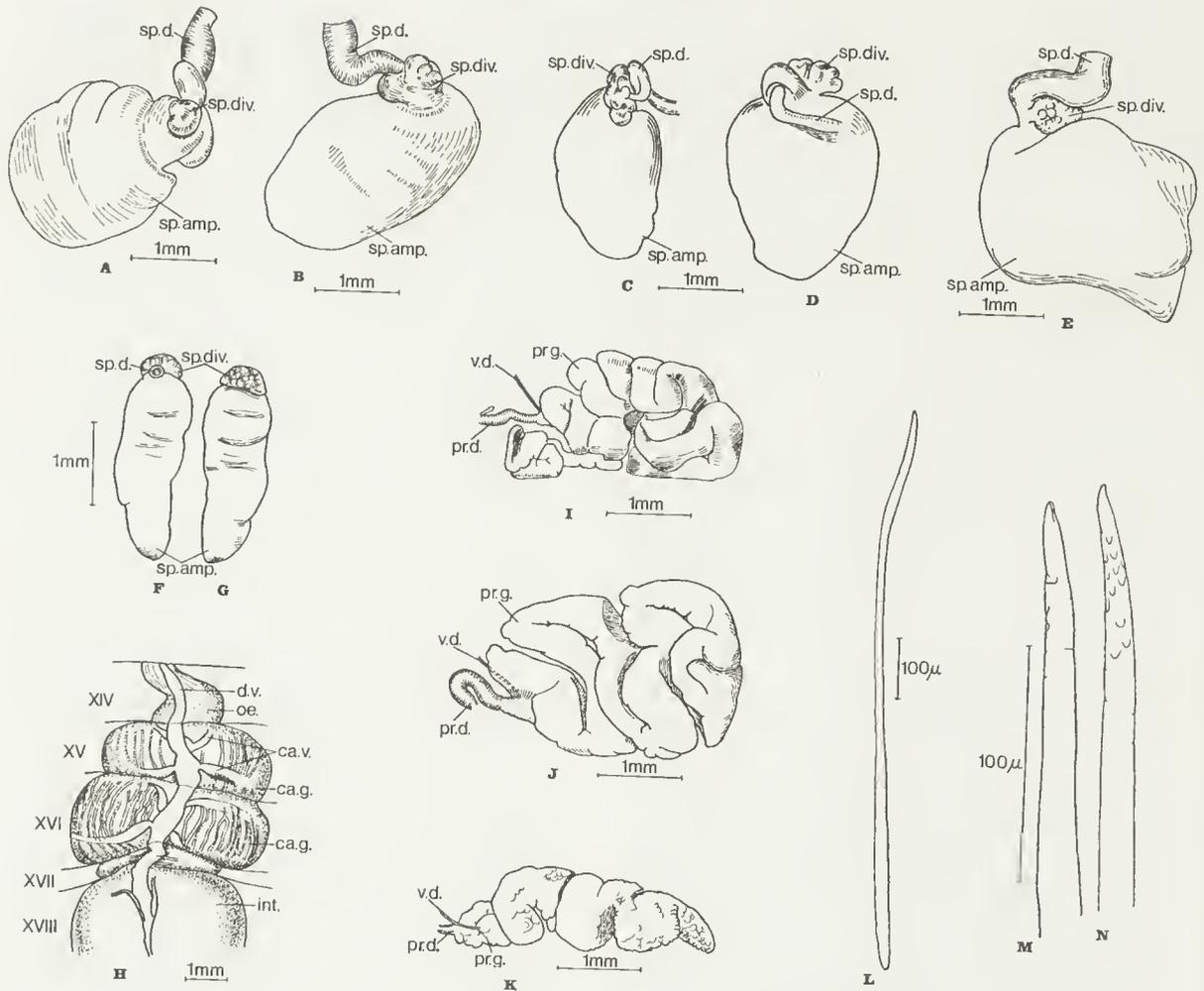


Fig. 3—A-B, *Simsia tuberculata* lectotype G172 left and right spermathecae of IX. C-D, *Simsia longwarriensis* n. sp. right spermatheca of VIII and IX. E, *Simsia tuberculata* (junior synonym *Megascolides roseus* W1728) right spermatheca of IX. F-G, *Simsia intermedia* paralectotype G58, ventral and dorsal aspects of right spermatheca of VIII. H, *Simsia tuberculata* (junior synonym *Megascolides roseus* W1728) califerous glands. I-K, right prostate glands of the above specimens of I, *Simsia tuberculata* G172, J, *Simsia longwarriensis* and K, *Simsia intermedia*. L-N, *Simsia tuberculata* G172. L, penial seta. M, tip of same. N, tip of further penial seta. All by camera lucida.

or distant and the dorsal setae (*cd*) are more widely separated, the interval between them being greater than or only slightly smaller than the interval (*bc*) between the two setal couples; the dorsal median intersetal distance (*dd*) is only 0.2-0.3 of the body circumference (all ratios in segment XII).

Paraplutellus differs from the other two genera in having calciferous glands in XIII only

(in IX-X or XI-XIII in *Heteroporodrilus*, X-XIII in *Plutellus*) and in the absence of a gizzard. Individuals of *Heteroporodrilus tryoni* are known in which the gizzard is rudimentary but the difference in arrangement and form of the calciferous glands in both *Heteroporodrilus* and *Plutellus*, together with the peculiar arrangement of the nephropores in each, leaves no doubt that *Paraplutellus* is distinct.

***Paraplutellus insularis* n. sp.**

Fig. 1A-C.

1 = 28 (paratype) and 46 mm (holotype), w (midclitellar) = 4.5 mm, s = 68 (posterior regenerate) and 98. Form moderately stout, circular in cross section throughout, setal annuli moderately prominent but distinct secondary annulation lacking. Pigmentless buff in alcohol. Prostomium tanylobous, with very narrow, almost parallel-sided dorsal tongue; not canaliculate. First dorsal pore 6/7, setae in eight regular longitudinal rows, commencing on II; *ab* absent, *bc* present, in XVIII.

Nephropores sporadically visible externally, anterior in their segments in more than one series on each side, from internal distribution of vesicles in *d* lines in segments II-IV, in *c* lines in V or in V and VI, alternating from *b* to *d* lines in successive segment from VI or VII posteriorly.

Clitellum annular and very strongly protuberant as a conspicuous narrow band around the body, embracing XIV-XVI; dorsal pores, nephropores, setae and intersegmental furrows retained. Male genital field: male pores on XVIII in *b* lines on large, prominent porophores which extend from 1/3 XVIII-18/19. Very small eye-like accessory genital markings in *b* lines, a pair anteriorly in XVIII impinging on intersegmental furrow 17/18 and a pair anteriorly in XIX, impinging slightly on furrow 18/19. Further accessory genital markings large paired oval glandular areas with depressed centres, occupying the posterior halves of segments VI, VII and VIII in *bc* (that in VI not represented on the right side); in IX in front of setae *b*, and in X and XI presetally in *ab* (holotype). In the paratype the male porophores are similar, but only the accessory genital markings

in XVIII and XIX are present. Female pores a pair in XIV, very near the midventral line immediately in front of the setal arc. Spermathecal pores inconspicuous, five pairs, in 4/5-8/9, in *c* lines.

Septal thickening: 3/4-6/7 thin, 7/8-8/9 slightly, 9/10-14/15 moderately, 15/16 slightly thickened, the remainder thin. Pharyngeal glands five pairs of large lobes, the last in VII. Dorsal blood vessel single, continuous onto the pharynx. Dorsoventral commissural vessels in VI-XII; those in IX, anteriorly, slender and arising from the dorsal vessel only; those in X-XII forming three pairs of large latero-oesophageal hearts each of which receives a connective from the dorsal vessel and one from a paired circum-oesophageal vessel shortly before this joins a single, middorsal supra-oesophageal vessel which occupies segment IX-XII. Subneural vessel absent.

Oesophagus in V-VII enveloped by the pharyngeal glands and moniliform and extremely thin walled. Similar but not obscured, in VIII and IX, a gizzard being totally absent. In X expanded and croplike with a pair of circumferential vessels, in XI and XII segmentally dilated and similarly vascularized. In XIII the oesophagus bears a pair of large lateral reniform calciferous glands sessile on the oesophagus over half of its circumference, the two glands merging middorsally and midventrally. The cavity of each gland is occupied by lamellae orientated radially relative to the oesophagus and with their greatest widths longitudinal. Each gland sends an anterior and a posterior calciferous vessel to the dorsal blood vessel. Oesophagus in XIV and XV narrow but still moderately vascular and sending paired vessels to the dorsal vessel. Intestine commencing with abrupt

TABLE 4

INTERSETAL DISTANCES IN SEGMENT XII IN

Paraplutellus insularis

	aa		ab		bc		cd		dd		dd:u
	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	mm	st	
holotype	0.84	9.24	0.57	6.22	1.11	12.16	1.37	15.02	2.18	23.98	
intervals/ab		1.49		1.00		1.95		2.41		3.86	0.24
paratype	0.77	9.46	0.58	7.13	1.02	12.53	1.23	15.50	1.72	21.13	
intervals/ab		1.33		1.00		1.76		2.17		2.96	0.21

expansion and narrow oesophageal valve in XVI, typhlosole and muscular thickening absent.

Nephridia stomate vesiculate exonephric holonephridia throughout. The cctal duct of each nephridium entering the side of a large elongate bladder the opposite side of which projects as a wide diverticulum; the diverticulum median if the nephropore is in *b*, lateral if it is in *d*.

Testes and large iridescent funnels free in X and XI; seminal vesicles elongate, racemose, in IX and XII. Prostates tubular, restricted to XVIII in which the glands run laterally and then for an equal distance medianly; the duct tortuous and about half as long, its ental half narrow, its cctal half wide and with a strong muscular sheen. Vasa deferentia double on each side, joining the prostate glands ental of the ducts. Penial setae present in XVIII; whiplike, with moderately stout basal portion and longer, slender undulating region which bears sparsely scattered inconspicuous teeth or spines; length ca. 1 mm (uncertain owing to fragmentation) width of shaft 8μ ; greatest width of base (terminally) 12μ .

Ovaries (consisting of many egg-strings) and moderate sized funnels in XIII. Ovisacs absent. Spermathecae five pairs, discharging anteriorly in their segments; each with an ovoid ampulla, somewhat longer narrow cylindrical duct and a small clavate sperm-filled lateral diverticulum joining the duct slightly ectal of its middle. Length of right spermatheca of IX = 1.2 mm, ratio total length: length of duct = 2.1; ratio total length: length of diverticulum = 2.7.

Material examined: Two clitellate specimens, here designated holotype and paratype (new registration numbers G1543 and G1544 respectively); collector?, Baldwin Spencer collection. The sample includes two labels, both giving the locality as Lord Howe Island, one bearing the date Jan. 1903 but no registration number, the other Jan. 1906 and the number G416. With the two syntypes is a specimen of a large perichaetine worm.

Discussion

Paraplutellus and *Simsia*, in having male and

prostatic pores restricted to segment XVIII and holonephridia, are placeable in a *Perionyx*-group which is composed of the genera *Perionyx* Perrier, 1872, *Comarodrilus* Stephenson, 1915, *Diporochoaeta** Beddard, 1890, *Diplotrema* (part, New Caledonian species only) Spenceer, 1900, *Fletcherodrilus** Michaelsen, 1891, *Heteroprodilus** Jamieson, 1970, *Plutellus** Perrier, 1873; *Pontodrilus** Perrier, 1874; *Pseudoperichaeta** Jamieson, 1970 and *Woodwardiella** Stephenson, 1925.

Spenceriella belongs to a distinct group of megascolocid genera which are meronephric with (in each prostate segment) an exonephric, stomate meronephridium median to astomate micromeronephridia. This *Dichogaster*-group (Jamieson 1971a) contains many genera, notably *Dichogaster* Beddard, 1888, *Didymogaster** Fletcher, 1887a, *Digaster** Perrier, 1872, *Eutyphoeus* Michaelsen, 1900, *Megascolides** McCoy, 1878, *Notoscolex** Fletcher, 1887a, s. str. Jamieson 1971c, and *Spenceriella** Michaelsen, 1907 (typical part).

* Genera indigenous in Australia.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE ILLUSTRATIONS

ca.g., calciferous glands; ca.v., calciferous vessel; d.v., dorsal vessel; ♀, female pore; g.m., accessory genital marking; int., intestine; l.g.m., lateral accessory genital marking; lo, latero-oesophageal vessel; lo.h., latero-oesophageal heart; ♂, male pore; m.g.m., median accessory genital marking; np., nephropore; oe, oesophagus; pr.d., prostate duct; pr.g., glandular part of prostate; sp.amp., spermathecal ampulla; sp.d., spermathecal duct; sp.div., spermathecal diverticulum; sp.p., spermathecal pore; v.d., vas deferens.