

First Record of the Terrestrial Species *Geonemertes pelaensis* (Nemertea: Hoplonemertea) in Hawaii

JON L. NORENBURG (Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560)

Five unidentified specimens of *Geonemertes pelaensis* Semper, 1863, collected by M. Mathis from houseplants in Waikiki on 30 September 1990, were passed along to me by B. Kumashiro of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Honolulu. In May 1992, through the hospitality of M. Hadfield, I collected 6 more individuals on the northeast outskirts of Honolulu, in a shaded and regularly misted outdoor concrete patio area with potted plants; 5 were found during the day under pots and 1 was found at night, crawling through exposed plant litter. All specimens discussed below are deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC.

Geonemertes pelaensis Semper, 1863

The body of *G. pelaensis* is darkish cream-white dorsally, somewhat paler ventrally, with a conspicuous brown mid-dorsal stripe extending from just behind the eyes to the posterior tip of the body. This agrees with the most commonly described appearance of specimens from other locations (cf. Moore & Gibson 1985). Undisturbed, gliding specimens ranged in length from 18–40 mm and were about 1 mm in diameter. A pair of large eyes near the tip of the head is easily visible to the unaided eye. Shortly posterior, 2 or 3 pairs of much smaller, closely spaced eyes give the superficial appearance of a single pair of eyes. Identity was established by histological study, which demonstrated the presence of "binucleate" flame cells and of an accessory lateral nerve cord.

Geonemertes pelaensis is widely distributed among Indo-Pacific islands, from Japan to Papua New Guinea to Samoa (Moore & Gibson 1985). Oki *et al.* (1987) cite Hawaii, apparently in error and without specific reference, as a location where it has been found; there does not appear to be any prior published record.

Literature Cited

- Moore, J. & R. Gibson. 1985. The evolution and comparative physiology of terrestrial and freshwater nemerteans. *Biol. Rev.* 60: 257–312.
- Oki, I., S. Tamura, R.E. Ogren, K. Kitagawa & M. Kawakatsu. 1987. The karyotype and a new locality for the land nemertine *Geonemertes pelaensis* Semper, 1863. *Bull. Fuji Women's Coll.* 25, Ser. II: 67–77.