

A NEW POLYCHAETOUS ANNELID OF THE GENUS NEREIS FROM BRAZIL.

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The following description is of a *Nereis* collected at Santos, Brazil, in July, 1913. It was transmitted to the United States National Museum by the director of the Museu Paulista, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and by them sent me for identification.

NEREIS BREVICIRRATA, new species.

The collection contained two entire specimens of adult females with eggs. The length was about 30 mm. with a peristomial width of 3 mm. The only trace of color in the alcoholic material was a brownish tint, forming a fairly uniform shading on the anterior region as far back as the fifth somite. Behind this the color is limited to a darker brown median band, which at somite 12 narrows and becomes very indistinct for the remainder of the body. In the preserved material the dorsal blood vessel shows as a prominent narrow stripe.

The prostomium (fig. 1) is very slightly rounded anteriorly, the width at the anterior margin being practically equal to that just in front of the anterior eyes. A median longitudinal dorsal groove extends from the anterior margin to the level of the anterior pair of eyes. The entire lateral margin of the prostomium is fused with the inner face of the palp, though as far back as the anterior pair of eyes a faint groove marks the line of fusion. Behind this point the fusion is complete. The tentacles are separated at their bases by a distance equal to their diameter, and are relatively small, conical, with acute tips. The palps are very thick and fleshy, as broad as the peristomium, with a very small terminal joint. Toward the end a transverse groove simulates an articulation.

The tentacular cirri are small, most of them not reaching the apex of the palp. The posterior dorsal one is the most slender, and extended in one specimen as far as the posterior border of somite 2, while in the other it was much shorter. This is evidently a variation due to the preservation. The other cirri are not more than a third as long as this, conical, with acute tips (fig. 1).

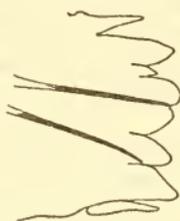
The peristomium is longer than the prostomium, and shorter than the second and third somites combined, though longer than the second. Toward the posterior end of the body there is a gradual decrease in the diameter. There is one pair of long, slender anal cirri.

There are two pair of eyes, not noticeably different in size, the anterior being a little farther apart than the posterior and with much more prominent lenses.

The jaws are rather large, broad-flattened plates much curved toward the ends. Each has a row of denticulations along the inner edge. They are light brown at the base, but much darker toward



1



2



4



3

FIGS. 1-4.—*NEREIS BREVICIRRATA*, NEW SPECIES. 1, HEAD $\times 7.5$; 2, TENTH PARAPODIUM $\times 22.5$; 3, COMPOUND SETA $\times 250$; 4, COMPOUND SETA $\times 300$

the apex. The paragnaths are small, dark brown in color: I, two small ones lying one behind the other; II, a cluster of about 7; III and IV, apparently run together, the two being represented on either side by a patch of about 15; V, two oval paragnaths larger than the others; VI, three, almost continuous with the basal armature, which extends entirely around the pharynx.

The parapodia are of practically uniform character throughout the body. The tenth (fig. 2) shows all lobes of practically the same length, none very long or sharp pointed. The dorsal cirrus is conical, the ventral one much more slender, attached rather closely to the neuropodium.

Two kinds of compound setae occur in the notopodium and only one in the neuropodium. One (fig. 3) has a stout basal portion with many transverse striations; the terminal joint

small, blunt pointed, with a row of stout spines along one edge. These spines vary in number and size, but this variation is, I think, due to the loss or injury of some of them. The second form of seta (fig. 4) has a slender basal joint, the terminal joint being very long and slender. There is a faint indication of striations along one margin. Both forms occur in the notopodium, but only the latter in the neuropodium.

Type.—Cat. No. 18934, U. S. N. M.