

NEREIS (CERATONEREIS) ALASKENSIS, A NEW POLY-  
CHAETOUS ANNELID FROM ALASKA.

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Among the recent annelid accessions of the United States National Museum submitted to me for identification is an apparently undescribed polychaete. The single specimen was taken by Lieutenant Colonel C. A. Seoane, Signal Corps, United States Army, from the cable in Valdez Harbor, Alaska, which was brought aboard the United States Army Tender *Burnside* during repairs to the cable in December, 1920. The depth at this point was given as 200 fathoms.

NEREIS (CERATONEREIS) ALASKENSIS, new species.

*Type specimen*.—Cat. No. 19029, U. S. N. M.; Valdez Harbor, Alaska, in 200 fathoms.

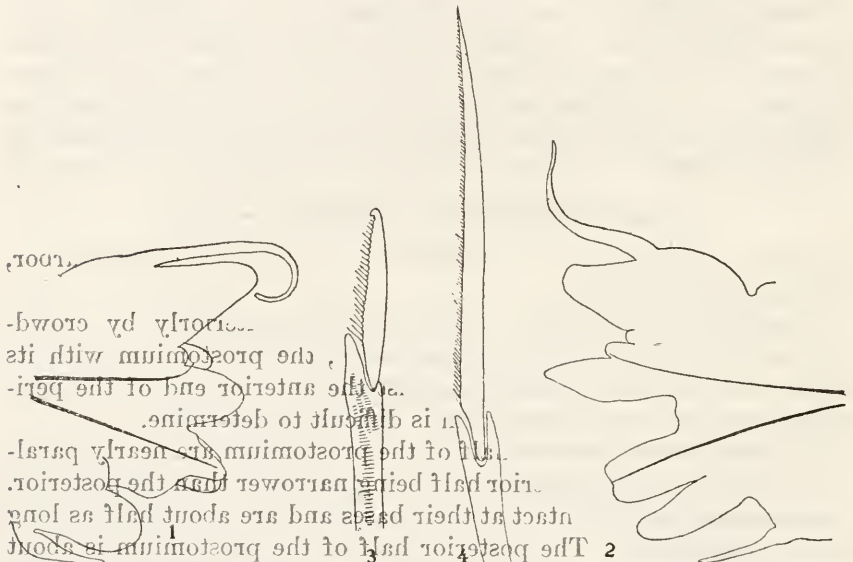
*Description*.—Apparently much distorted anteriorly by crowding into the bottle used for preservation, the prostomium with its appendages has been flattened against the anterior end of the peristomium so that its original form is difficult to determine.

The sides of the anterior half of the prostomium are nearly parallel to one another, the anterior half being narrower than the posterior. The tentacles are in contact at their bases and are about half as long as the prostomium. The posterior half of the prostomium is about twice as wide as the anterior, and has two pairs of very prominent dark eyes with large lenses. The palps are very prominent, attached to the prostomium for the greater part of its length. In the present condition of the specimen, the terminal joints of the palps are withdrawn into the basal portion, so that the latter has a truncated appearance.

On the right side the only tentacular cirri present are the two of the anterior pair and the ventral one of the posterior, while on the left only the two ventral ones remain. All are much shriveled, the longest, the dorsal one of the anterior pair on the right side, extending as far as somite 5. The anterior somites seem to be much contracted, so that it is probable that in the living individuals these cirri would not reach so far. Somite 2 is about one-third shorter than 1, which

is 1.5 mm. long and 5 mm. wide. The greatest body width is in the region of somite 6, where the diameter is 6 mm. The somites in general are about 0.75 mm. in length; the body is 95 mm. long, with approximately 120 somites. It tapers rapidly toward the posterior end, but no trace of anal cirri remain. Throughout the posterior half the dark dorsal blood vessel and anastomosing blood vessels on the dorsal surface of each somite give a dark color to the dorsal surface.

The jaws are long but not very stout, yellow at the base and chestnut colored at the apex. The teeth are not very distinct, but there seemed to be 7 on the left and 10 on the right. The proboscis was retracted, but dissection showed a total absence of paragnaths on



FIGS. 1-4. NEBEIS (CERATONEREIS) ALASKENSIS, NEW SPECIES. 1, 11TH PARAPODIUM ATTACHED TO THE PROSOPIUM; 2, VENTRAL SETA; 3, MIDDLE PARAPODIUM; 4, DORSAL SETA. X 250.

the basal portion. On the terminal portion I was absent, II not more than 3 very small scattered ones on either side, III and IV, 8 very small scattered ones, the distinction between III and IV not being very distinct.

The 11th parapodium (fig. 1) shows much less distinction between neuro- and notopodium than occurs farther posteriorly. The dorsal notopodial lobe is large, thick, conical, with a very long and slender cirrus, extending to a considerable distance beyond its apex. The ventral lobe of the notopodium is also rounded, while the setal portion has a longer pre- than post-setal lip. In the setal lobe of the neuropodium there is a conical post- and a rounded pre-setal portion, while the ventral neuropodial lobe is broadly rounded. The ventral

cirrus is clearly swollen at the base. A single acicula extends into each half of the parapodium.

A parapodium from the middle of the body (fig. 2) shows well separated notopodial and neuropodial portions, with aciculae which are very slender. The dorsal lobe of the notopodium is the larger, and carries the long slender cirrus at about midway of its length. The ventral lobe of the notopodium is asymmetrically lanceolate in outline, and a bilobed setal portion lies between it and the dorsal lobe. In the neuropodium the dorsal lobe is bluntly truncated at the apex, and the acicula reaches the surface at about its middle. The ventral lobe has a rounded apex, and the cirrus, with a swollen base, is attached to the body wall at a little distance from the neuropodium.

The setae are of two kinds. One (fig. 3) with a heavy basal portion, the apex asymmetrically bifid, the terminal portion rounded at the apex, with a row of fine hairlike processes along one edge. The other (fig. 4) has a more slender basal portion, symmetrically bifid at the apex, the terminal joint slender and flattened, much longer than in the first type, and with minute hairlike processes along one margin. There seemed to be variations in the size of the terminal joints, but, owing to the loss of many of them in the preservation, I could not get accurate information on this point. Those of the second group make up the notopodial tuft and the dorsalmost of the neuropodial one. Those of the first group occur in the ventral part of the neuropodial tuft.