

ON THE GENUS *STRATIODRILUS* (*Archiannelida*:
Histriobdellidæ), WITH A DESCRIPTION OF
A NEW SPECIES FROM
MADAGASCAR.

BY

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(Figures 1-3.)

GENERAL.

THE genus *Stratiodrilus* was established by the late Professor W. A. Haswell, F.R.S.,¹ for the reception of a species of Histriobdellid found upon fresh-water crayfishes in Tasmania. Subsequently² Haswell described a second species from the common spiny crayfish of New South Wales, *Astacopsis serratus*. Amongst some papers which came into my hands after Professor Haswell's death was a letter from Dr. E. H. Cordero of Monte Video, which recorded the finding in 1921 at two different localities in Uruguay of a species of *Stratiodrilus* upon a fresh-water Anomurous Decapod, *Æglea laevis*. Dr. Cordero enclosed a camera outline of this species, which I have redrawn and reproduce here as Fig. 3. Quite recently my colleague Miss Lucy M. Wood, B.A., who is working upon the Temnocephaloidea, obtained through the kindly interest of M. Nettement, Consul-General for France in Australia, and of the Governor-General of Madagascar, a number of individuals of the Madagascar crayfish, *Astacoides madagascariensis*. On examining the precipitate at the bottom of the bottles in which these animals were contained, I found, as I had hoped and expected, a species of *Stratiodrilus* present in very considerable numbers. This is described below. It may be presumed that these animals came from the gill-chambers of the crayfish, although I was not able to find any in that situation, all having apparently dropped to the bottom after being killed by the formalin in which the hosts were preserved.

The range of *Stratiodrilus* is thus extended from Australia to South America on one hand and to Madagascar on the other, and this fact induces me to prophesy with some confidence that the genus will yet be found upon the crayfishes *Parastacus* in South America and *Paranephrops* in New Zealand. These discoveries strengthen the argument which I have used on two previous

¹ Haswell.—On a New Histriobdellid, Quart. Journ. Micro. Sci., xliii, 1900, pp. 299-335.

² Haswell.—Notes on the Histriobdellidæ, *id.*, lix, 1913, pp. 197-226.