

ON A NEW SPECIES OF APHRODITA.

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(Plate lxix., figs. 1-8.).

There are in this Museum a number of Polychætes formerly labelled *Aphrodita australis*, Baird¹. The original description of this species is sufficiently general to include several allied forms. Prof. W. McIntosh,² however, gave a much better description, accompanied by figures, of specimens collected off Port Jackson by H.M.S. "Challenger." As he had examined Baird's type in the British Museum, we may safely take his description as a means for comparing our own worms with *A. australis*.

The animals are apparently distinct. Both possess forty-two segments, which narrow very rapidly towards the posterior extremity. Our type, an adult female, is seventy-five millimetres long; its greatest width (excluding the setæ) is in the region of the tenth, eleventh and twelfth segments, being thirty-two millimetres. The posterior fifteen segments total only nine millimetres in length. The region of greatest width is more anteriorly situated than is shown in McIntosh's figure.

The prostomium or head is very small, rounded, and completely covered by the anterior pair of elytra. The median tentacle is very short, being almost rudimentary. It is more rounded than in *A. australis*. There are two pair of simple, sessile, black eyes, the anterior pair being much larger and more darkly pigmented than the posterior. The latter are situated above and behind the former (Pl. lxix., fig. 2). The eyes are directed forwards, their appearance from the front being on Pl. lxix., fig. 3.

The first stigerous segment (peristomium) is visible dorsally on removing the elytra, as a collar-like ridge behind the prostomium. The scales of the next segment completely overlap this segment and the head. Extending forwards from below the tentacle is

¹ Baird—Monograph of the Aphroditidæ (Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool., x., 1865, p. 176). Haswell—Mon. Australian Aphroditea (Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, vii., 1882, p. 250).

² McIntosh—Polychæta (Chall. Rep., Zool., xii., 1885, p. 34).