

RETETEREBELLA QUEENSLANDIA, A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF POLYCHAETOUS ANNELID FROM QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

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(Figs 1-3)

The collection on which this description is based was received from Miss Isobel Bennett, of the University of Sydney, Australia, whom I thank for the privilege of examining these materials. Mr. Anker Petersen prepared the plate of figures. The holotype specimen is deposited in the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales (Australian Museum Registered Number, W. 3755); a cotype is in the Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

Reteterebella, new genus

Type *R. queenslandia*, new species

Reteterebella belongs to the subfamily AMPHITRITINAE Hesse, 1917. Thoracic uncini are in simple rows in five, and in double alternating rows in 11, segments. All uncini are avicular, have a short base and a main fang surmounted by two (or few) smaller teeth. Thoracic setae are first present in the first postbranchial (= fourth) segment, together with uncini in single rows. The setae are entirely smooth along the cutting edge and narrowly limbate along the free length. The thorax consists of a smooth peristomium, three branchial segments and 16 thoracic setigerous segments. Branchiae number three pairs; each one has a basal stalk and terminates in dendritic branches. Lateral lappets are present on the first few segments, but inconspicuous. Nephridial papillae number three pairs, present on the second and third branchial, and first setigerous, segments; gonadial papillae, resembling the nephridial, occur on three successive segments, or setigerous 2 to 4. Ventral scutes are present from the third branchial, and through most thoracic, segments.

Reteterebella is allied to *Eupolymnia* Verrill (as *Polymnia* in Hesse, 1917, p. 174) from which it differs in: (1) thoracic setigerous segments number 16 instead of 17; (2) thoracic uncini are first present from the first, instead of second, setigerous segment, and (3) the first appearance of alternating rows of uncini is in the sixth, instead of eleventh, segment.

The generic name refers to the method of feeding, or casting out its tentacles as a seine, to capture micro-organisms.

Reteterebella queenslandia, new species

Plate 1, figs. 1-3

Collection.—Two specimens come from Heron Island flat, Queensland, Australia, intertidal zone, under dead coral boulders.

Length of a male specimen is 83 mm. without the tentacles, and width is 15 mm. in the middle thoracic, or widest part. A mature female is somewhat larger and has similar proportions. Preserved specimens are drab pale-yellow and have no colour except for the minute black eyespots; they encircle the peristomium as a narrow band behind the insertion of the numerous tentacles. In life the branchiae are brownish red and the body is dull white (Miss Bennett, in litt.).