

MYRIOPODA FROM THE SOCIETY ISLANDS*

By

F. SILVESTRI

LABORATORIO DI ENTOMOLOGIA AGRARIA, PORTICI

Mr. E. P. Mumford has recently submitted to me for study a collection of myriopods from the Society Islands made by Mr. A. M. Adamson. The collection contains 5 families, 8 genera, and 9 species; none are new. Of these 9 species, 4, *Scolopendra subspinipes* Leach, *Orphnaeus brevilabiatus* (Newport), *Orthomorpha coarctata* (Saussure), and *O. gracilis* (C. Koch), had been previously recorded from the Society Islands by Chamberlin,¹ but 5, *Trigoniulus (Spirotrophus) naresii* Pocock, *Mecistocephalus maxillaris* (Lucas), *Cryptops niuensis* Chamberlin, *Glyphiulus granulatus* Gervais, and *Opisthoporodesmus* species, are here listed from the Society Islands for the first time. Of the 6 Society Islands species listed by Chamberlin but not collected by Adamson, 4, *Cryptops mirus* Chamberlin, *C. tahitianus* Chamberlin, *Mecistocephalus angustior* Chamberlin, and *Trigoniulus tahitianus* Chamberlin, were described from Tahiti and have not yet been recorded elsewhere, and 2, *Ethmostigmus platycephalus* (Newport) and *Mecistocephalus tahitiensis* Wood, are widely distributed. Of these *E. platycephalus* is recorded from the East Indies (Kei and the Moluccas), New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Ellice Islands and Tokelau, and *M. tahitiensis* from Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, and Fiji.

Seven of the species listed above, *Trigoniulus naresii*, *Scolopendra subspinipes*, *Orphnaeus brevilabiatus*, *Mecistocephalus maxillaris*, *Orthomorpha gracilis*, *O. coarctata*, and *Cryptops niuensis*, were also collected in the Marquesas by the Pacific Entomological Survey.²

Though this collection is inadequate for any but the most tentative statements regarding geographical relations, it would appear that the Tahitian myriopods migrated from the west. The fact that 4 of the 15 species now known from the Society Islands have not yet been recorded elsewhere suggests the possibility of an endemic element, and further collecting is much to be desired.

¹ Chamberlin, R. V., The Myriopoda of the Australian region; Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard, Bull., vol. 64, no. 1, pp. 1-269, 1920.

² Adamson, A. M., Myriopoda of the Marquesas Islands: B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 98, pp. 225-232, 1932. Silvestri, Filippo, A Further Report on Marquesan Myriopoda: B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 114, 1934.

* Pacific Entomological Survey Publication 6, article 28. Issued November 21, 1934.

ORDER CHILOPODA

FAMILY SCOLOPENDRIDAE

Cryptops niuensis Chamberlin

Tahiti: Fautaua, altitude 750 feet, September 10, 1928, 2 specimens; Fautaua, 2 kilometers below falls, 1 specimen; Adamson.

Moorea: Faaroa Valley, altitude 1,500 feet, November 28, 1928, 1 specimen, Adamson.

Recorded from the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Niue, and Cook Islands.

Scolopendra subspinipes Leach.

Tahiti: Fautaua Valley, altitude 20 feet, September 8, 1928, 2 specimens, Adamson.

Moorea: Faaroa Valley, December 4, 1928, 1 specimen; Faaroa Valley, altitude 1,000 feet, December 4, 1928, 1 specimen; Adamson.

This species is known from New Guinea, Fiji, New Zealand, Hawaii, Society Islands, and the Tuamotus. It was commonly found by the Survey in the Marquesas.

FAMILY GEOPHILIDAE

SUBFAMILY ORYINAE

Orphnaeus brevilabiatus (Newport).

Tahiti: Papenoo Valley, altitude 350 feet, October 25, 1928, 2 specimens, Adamson.

This geophilid has been recorded from West Australia, the East Indies (Kei, Aru, Flores, and the Celebes), Solomon Islands, Fiji, Gilbert Islands, Ellice Islands, Hawaii, Society Islands, and the Marquesas.

SUBFAMILY MECISTOCEPHALINAE

Mecistocephalus maxillaris (Lucas).

Tahiti: Hitiaa, 4 miles west of Hitiaa Village, November 16, 1928, 1 specimen, Adamson.

Moorea: Faaroa Valley, altitude 1,000 feet, December 4, 1928, 1 specimen, Adamson.

This species ranges from New Guinea to the Marquesas.

ORDER CHILOGNATHA

FAMILY POLYDESMIDAE

Orthomorpha coarctata (Saussure).

Moorea: Opunohu Valley, altitude 500 feet, November 29, 1928, numerous; Faaroa Valley, altitude 1,500 feet, November 28, 1928, 2 specimens; Adamson.

This polydesmid is known from the East Indies (Kei and Aru, Flores, Saleyer, Celebes, and Moluccas), Fiji, Ellice Islands, Hawaii, Society Islands, Cook Islands, and the Marquesas. It has been introduced in other tropical regions, also.

Orthomorpha gracilis (C. Koch).

Tahiti: Papenoo Valley, altitude 300 feet, 3.5 miles from sea, October 23, 1928, numerous; Papeete, August 28, 1928, numerous; Adamson.

This species is recorded from Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa, Hawaii, Society Islands, Cook Islands, the Marquesas, and many other places. It has been introduced in hothouses of temperate countries, also.

Opisthoporodesmus species.

A unique female *Opisthoporodesmus*, 6.5 mm. long, taken by A. M. Adamson on November 16, 1928, about 6 kilometers west of Hitiaa Village, Tahiti, does not agree with either of the described species of that genus. The description of the Tahitian species awaits the finding of additional material. *O. obtectus* Silvestri was described from Tamara Island, New Guinea.³

FAMILY SPIROBOLIDAE

Trigoniulus (Spirotrophus) naresii Pocock.

Tahiti: Fautaua Valley, altitude 750 meters, September 10, 1928, 6 specimens; Tuauru Valley, altitude 20 feet, September 6, 1928, numerous; Papenoo Valley, 3.5 miles from sea, October 23, 1928, numerous; Adamson.

Moorea: altitude 500 feet, November 29, 1928, 1 specimen; Faaroa Valley, altitude 1,500 feet, November 28, 1928, 1 specimen, altitude 500 feet, November 29, 1928, 8 specimens, altitude 1,000 feet, December 4, 1928, 2 specimens; Adamson.

In the Pacific area, this species ranges from the Marshall and Caroline Islands in Micronesia, through the Society Islands, to the Marquesas in eastern Polynesia.

³ Silvestri, F., *Term. Füz.* vol. 22, p. 206, pl. 9, figs. 5-7, 1899.

FAMILY CAMBALIDAE

Glyphiulus granulatus Gervais.

Tahiti: Tuauru, 1 specimen; Papeete, numerous specimens; Fautaua, numerous specimens; Adamson.

This species has a very wide distribution in Indo-Malaysia, the Seychelles, South China, and other regions. I collected specimens in Pago Pago, Samoa, and Honolulu, Hawaii, as early as August, 1908.