

A NEW SPECIES OF DENDROSTOMA.

By H. LEIGHTON KESTEVEN.

(Plate vii., and fig. 7).

The specimens from which the following description and figures are drawn, were collected by Mr. T. Whitelegge on the beach at Balmoral, Port Jackson, in July of 1901. At the time there had been much rain and heavy storms on the coast and it is probable that the rain washing down the wooded hills carried with it a large quantity of tanin and other deleterious matters derived from vegetable refuse, and thereby poisoned the marine invertebrate fauna generally. It is to this cause that Mr. Hedley assigned the occurrence of *Solen sloanii*, in numbers on the same beach.¹ It may, therefore, be concluded that the present species lives in three or four fathoms of water.

I am indebted to Mr. Whitelegge, not only for his kindness in placing the material at my disposal, but also for assistance in working it out.

The specimens when collected were placed in spirits, and most of them exerted the whole of the introvert and extended the trunk to its fullest extent. It is such a specimen that is here described.

DENDROSTOMA DEHAMATA, sp. nov.

External characters.—Length over all 230 mm.; of introvert, 60 mm. Diameter of trunk; at anus 5 mm., a few millimetres behind the anus, 8 mm.; thence it tapers slowly to about 6 mm. in diameter just anterior to the obtuse posterior point. Diameter of introvert, 3 mm. The trunk is cylindrical, of nearly uniform diameter throughout, but tapering slightly towards the obtusely pointed extremity. Colour white, inclined to wax yellow, especially on the introvert. The length of the introvert is slightly less than a third that of the trunk, the anterior quarter of it is quite smooth, the rest bears papillæ which, anteriorly, are rather long and slender, but become shorter, stouter, and more crowded as the posterior end is reached (Pl. vii., f. 5). There are *no* hooks on the introvert (hence the name), both young and old, introverted and exerted specimens have been examined. Tentacles plumed (Pl. vii., figs. 2, 3); their arrangement is variable; there are four main stems, two of two, and two of three primary branches. In some specimens, however, the divisions between these branches ex-

¹ Hedley—Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., xxiv., 1899, p. 432.