

A NEW SPECIES OF SILVER-FISH FROM LORD HOWE ISLAND.

By H. WOMERSLEY, F.R.E.S., A.L.S.,
South Australian Museum.

Heterolepisma howensis sp. n. Figures 1-15.

Description.—Length, both sexes, 8.0 mm., width across thorax 2.0 mm., length of median tail appendage 7.0 mm., of cerci 4.0 mm., of antennae 4-5.0 mm.

Colour (in spirit), greyish to brownish, antennae, cerci and tail appendage annulated with brown and white.

Thorax with almost parallel sides, abdomen slightly tapering.

Head with a single lateral comb of 3 macrosetae, besides the usual marginal series which include 6-7 macrosetae on each side. Antennae with approximately 20 segments. Maxillary and labial palpi and mandibles normal as figured.

Thorax: All tergites with a single submedian posterior macroseta on each side; sternite I (fig. 4) with almost straight, converging sides and moderately wide, slightly concave apex, with a series of 4 macrosetae and a few fine setae not extending beyond the posterior fourth of the lateral margins; sternite II (fig. 5) with sides slightly rounded, and apex broader and slightly concave, setae as in I but confined to posterior sixth of lateral margins; sternite III (fig. 6) wider than long, with curved sides and slightly concave apex, with the macrosetae forming a brush at the posterior corners, but otherwise devoid of setae as in I and II.

Abdomen: Tergites (fig. 9) with combs of macrosetae on posterior margins as follows: I, 2.1.0 + 0.1.2; II-VI, 3.2.1 + 1.2.3; VII, 3.3.1 + 1.3.3; VIII, 3.1 + 1.3; IX, 2.0 + 0.2. Sternites II-VI (fig. 10) with a single submedian posterior macroseta on each side. Tergite X wider than long, with broadly truncate apex and macrosetae as figured.

Stylets present on sternites VII-IX in female, on VIII-IX in male; on VII and VIII slightly less than half as long as those on IX. Ovipositor reaching to about half the length of cerci.

Remarks.—Closely related to *H. stilivarians* Silv. from Western Australia and South Australia, but differing as follows:

(1) All thoracic sternites without the finer setae extending along the lateral margins (compare figures 11-13 of *stilivarians*).

(2) Apex of tergite X truncate and not rounded.

(3) *H. stilivarians* has 5 stylets in the female and 4 in the male; although Silvestri recorded specimens of the female sex with 4 and 3 stylets only, these on further study might prove not to have been the same species. *H. howensis* has 3 stylets in the female and 2 in the male.

Locality.—Numerous specimens from Lord Howe Island, 1942, collected by Mr. Max Nicholls and referred to me for study by Dr. A. B. Walkom, Director, Australian Museum, Sydney.

Type male (reg. no. K 67623), allotype female (reg. no. K 67624), and twenty-six paratypes are in the Australian Museum; other paratypes in the South Australian Museum, Adelaide.

Mr. Nicholls states: "It is found under the bark of trees known as Kilinogue. Specimens are from Rocky Run, a creek between Rocky Point and Boat Harbour, east coast of island."