

THE EARTHWORM GENUS *OREOSCOLEX* (OLIGOCHAETA: MEGASCOLECIDAE) IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Figures 1-3

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SUMMARY

Descriptions are given of four species of *Oreoscolex* recently transferred to this genus from *Notoscolex*. All are shown to have the eight setae per segment and multiple caudal nephrostomes diagnostic of the genus. A key to the five species of *Oreoscolex* in New South Wales, including the type-species *O. imparicystis*, is given. Occurrence of a further eight species in Tasmania strongly suggests that the genus will also be found in intervening Victoria.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Oreoscolex* was erected by Jamieson (1973) for a hitherto unknown species, from Mt Kosciusko, which formerly would have been assignable to *Notoscolex*. *Oreoscolex* was distinguished by the presence of multiple caudal nephrostomes (a feature of the Tribe Magascolecini) from *Notoscolex*, in which only the medianmost meronephridium on each side in the caudal region was stomate. The latter condition, where nephridia discharged to the exterior, had been shown (Jamieson, 1971a) to diagnose a tribe Dichogastrini.

Since *Oreoscolex* was erected, eight Tasmanian species and four species from New South Wales have been added to the genus (Jamieson, 1974). Whereas four of the Tasmanian species were new, those from New South Wales were known species originally referred by Fletcher (1887a, b; 1889a, b) to *Cryptodrilus* and *Notoscolex* and placed by Michaelsen (1900) in the latter genus.

The present account provides more exhaustive descriptions of the four additional species from New South Wales than were given by Fletcher and justifies assigning them to *Oreoscolex*. All of the material described is in the collections of the Australian Museum, Sydney.

The terminology employed is that normally used in oligochaete taxonomy. Explanations of it are available in Michaelsen (1900) and Jamieson (1971a, 1974).