

TEREBELLIFORM POLYCHAETA OF THE FAMILIES AMPHARETIDAE, TEREBELLIDAE AND TRICHOBRANCHIDAE FROM AUSTRALIA, CHIEFLY FROM MORETON BAY, QUEENSLAND.

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SUMMARY

Some 24 species of polychaetes of the Terebelliformia group are recorded from Moreton Bay, Queensland, and previous records from Australia are reviewed. In the Ampharetidae one new genus, new species is established *Pseudoamphicteis papillosa* as well as a new species of *Auchenoplax*, *A. mesos*. In the Terebellidae, four new genera, new species are established: *Decathelepus ocellatus*, *Hadrachaeta aspeta*, *Litancyra octoseta* and *Rhinothelepus macer*, as well as three new species of *Pista*: *P. pectinata*, *P. trunca* and *P. trina*. *Artacamella dibranchiata* Knox and Cameron is redescribed and newly assigned to Trichobranchidae.

INTRODUCTION

The major portions of the terebelliform polychaetes were collected in connection with a two year ecological study, in 1970-1971, of the southern portion of Moreton Bay (Long. 153°15'E, Lat. 27°15'S) south of Peel Island, carried out by Professor Stephenson, and others, of the Zoology Department, Queensland University, and from the Middle Banks area off Tangalooma, in June to December 1972. Additional material from Moreton Bay was collected by Mrs C. Wallace, Queensland Museum. Wherever possible, material from other localities in Eastern Australia was examined in order to extend the range of the species found in Moreton Bay.

A total of 24 species are recorded from Moreton Bay, many of which are new to Queensland. Rullier was sent the collection of polychaetes from Moreton Bay that he reported on in 1965, by Stephenson, and the areas which these polychaetes were collected from were described by Stephenson, et al., (1970). This survey indicated that an area south of Peel Island had a particularly rich fauna and this area was subsequently intensively sampled by Stephenson, et al., (1974). This may explain the difference in the number of species of terebelliform polychaetes that Rullier recorded (5) and the number described in this paper (24).

Some of the material was collected by Stephenson, and others, in a relatively small area south of Peel Island in the southern portion of Moreton Bay. Fifteen sites, in 2-8 metres, were sampled in quintuplicate and repeated at 3 month intervals, from March 1970 to December 1971. This area is figured by Stephenson, et al., (1974). See Table 1.