

Occurrence of *Allonais pectinata* (Stephenson, 1910) (Oligochaeta: Naididae) in Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract. Aquatic oligochaete *Allonais pectinata* from an old well at Chittoor is reported as a new record for Andhra Pradesh.

Keywords. Aquatic oligochaete; *Allonais pectinata*.

1. Introduction

Allonais pectinata (Stephenson 1910) has been known from the Travancore region of Kerala State, having been reported from Bheemnagar (Stephenson 1910) and Kottayam (Aiyer 1930) and from Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh (Stephenson 1920). The present report records this species for the first time in Andhra Pradesh from Chittoor town.

2. Systematic description

Allonais pectinata (Stephenson, 1910)

Sperber, 1948, p. 206-207. Brinkhurst and Jamieson, 1971, p. 339-340, fig. 7.7 B-E.

Nais pectinata Stephenson, 1910, p. 236-237, Pl. XI, fig. 1; 1920, p. 198; 1923, p. 63-64, fig. 19. Aiyer, 1930, p. 19, 20, fig. 2.

2.1. Material examined

One sexual and three non-sexual worms from the filamentous algae of an old unused well in the campus of temporary buildings of the Government College, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Worms are brownish in colour, with a bluntly triangular prostomium and a minute fossa-like postero-dorsal anal opening. Eyes absent.

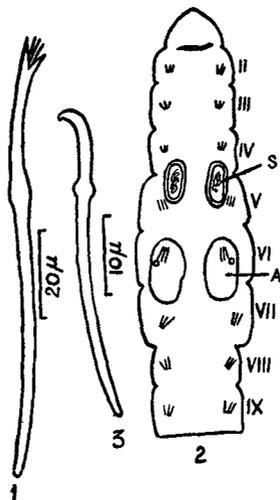
Bundles of dorsal setae begin in VI segment, each with 1 hair seta and 1 needle seta, rarely 2 of each. Hair setae are simple and $160\text{--}220\ \mu$ long. Needle setae (figure 1) are slightly sickle-shaped, having 2 strong teeth with 3 fine intermediate teeth, distal tooth longer and a little thicker than proximal, $60\text{--}66\ \mu$ long, with a weak nodulus $1/3$ from distal end (Distal : Proximal : : $10 : 18$). Ventral setae of II-V segments are 4-5 per bundle, thinner, less curved with distal prong thinner and longer than proximal; in others 2-5 per bundle, curved and thick, $50\text{--}56\ \mu$ long, with distal nodulus and distal prong thinner and longer than proximal.

Pharynx in II-V segments, wide; oesophagus in VI-X, narrow; stomach in XI-XII, weak; intestine narrow in XIII and wide from XIV. Cloragogues start in VI. Coelomocytes present. Septal glands absent. Blood is reddish. Dorsal vessel is mid-dorsal in anterior segments and lateral, placed to left of gut from VI segment behind. First pair of nephridia in segment VIII.

Budding absent, asexual reproduction by architomy occurs. Posterior fragment develops 5 head segments and anterior fragment develops several posterior segments. Clitellum from V-VII (3 segments). Gonads not seen in the single sexual worm. Spermsac with sperm morulae extends to IX segment and ovisac with ova extends to XII segment. Atria (figure 2) are ovoid, twice as long as wide, open to exterior by transverse slit-like male pores postero-lateral to ventral bundles of VI. Ventral setae of VI are modified into penial setae (figure 3), 5 per bundle, $60\text{--}66\ \mu$ long, hooked distally with distal prong reduced. Spermathecae (figure 2) in V, ovoid, thin-walled, opening to exterior in V segment.

Length (living) : 6-7 mm. Diameter (Living) : 0.3 mm. Number of segments per worm : 60-70. Architomy occurs behind 30-35 segments.

Remarks : In having 2-5 ventral setae per bundle with 5 setae in most of the segments the present worms resemble Kottayam worms of Aiyer (1930), but differ from Bheemnagar worms of Stephenson (1910) which are said to have 3 setae per bundle.



Figures 1-3. *Allonais pectinata*. 1. Needle seta. 2. Anterior part of worm showing spermathecae (S) and atria (A). 3. Penial seta.

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