

Parasites of Australian Marine Oligochaetes.

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As part of a project to determine the life cycle of a marine myxosporean (Protozoa: Myxozoa) the parasitic fauna of several thousand marine oligochaetes from five areas in Australia was investigated. Moreton Bay in Brisbane, Queensland, was the primary site of investigation. Actinosporea were the most common parasites encountered infecting about 1.4% of oligochaetes. Most of these infections were by the genus *Sphaeractinomyxon* and were recorded from Darwin in the Northern Territory, Lizard Island, Heron Island and Brisbane in Queensland, and Sydney in New South Wales. Descriptions of two new *Sphaeractinomyxon* species are underway. One species is of particular interest because only four spores develop in the pansporoblast rather than eight characteristic of the class. Two other actinosporean genera were recorded, *Aurantiactinomyxon* from Lizard Island and *Triactinomyxon* from Brisbane. Astomous ciliates infected the intestinal lumen of 46 (2.9%) Heron Island oligochaetes and two (0.05%) Brisbane oligochaetes. A single juvenile spirurid-like nematode was recorded from the coelom of three (0.2%) oligochaetes examined from Heron Island. No ectoparasites were noted although the commensal peritrich *Epistylis* sp. was occasionally observed.