

## NOTES AND NEWS

### ON THE REDISCOVERY OF *BASEODISCUS HEMPRICHII* (EHRENBERG, 1831) (NEMERTEA, ANOPLA, BASEODISCIDAE) FROM KARACHI WATERS

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During a study of biodiversity on the Pakistan coast several species of nemerteans were encountered. One is uncertainly identified as *Lineus ruber* (Muller, 1774), the identification of another is under way. A third, *Baseodiscus hemprichii*, has previously been recorded from Karachi by Puri (1924). He gave a detailed description of his specimens, but no illustrations, and noted that "The external characters of this worm resemble those of *Eupolia hemprichi*." *Baseodiscus edmondsoni* Coe, 1934, described from the Hawaiian Islands (Coe, 1934, 1947) may be conspecific with our material.

*Baseodiscus hemprichii* has been collected many times from rocky areas on the Karachi coast, but on only one occasion was it photographed and then drawn. The specimen illustrated was collected from a rocky beach at Jhopri Point on 14 October, 1985. The species is briefly described here.

#### *Baseodiscus hemprichii* (Ehrenberg, 1831) (Fig. 1)

*Nemertes hemprichii* Ehrenberg, 1831: 64

*Borlasia hemprichii* Diesing, 1850: 240, 1862: 249

*Eupolia brockii* Burger, 1890: 22

*Eupolia mediolineata* Burger, 1893: 230; 1895a: 603, 1895b: 27

*Eupolia hemprichi* Burger, 1895a: 603; 1895b: 26; Staub, 1900: 97; Puri, 1924: 72;  
Gravely, 1927: 53; Patel *et al.*, 1976: 663.

*Taeniosoma hemprichi* Coe, 1906: 978

*Baseodiscus hemprichi* Yamaoka, 1939: 283; Iwata, 1954a: 30, 1954b: 37; Utinomi,  
1976: 31

*Baseodiscus hemprichii* Punnett and Cooper, 1909: 7; Iwata, 1960: 166; Gibson, 1974:  
255, 1979: 137

#### DESCRIPTIVE REMARKS

The body is ribbon-shaped. There is a distinct demarcation between the cephalic lobe and the trunk region. The cephalic lobe is small. The dermis and muscular layers are thick. The mouth opens a little way behind anterior end. Several eyes are present in a marginal row on each side of the cephalic lobe.

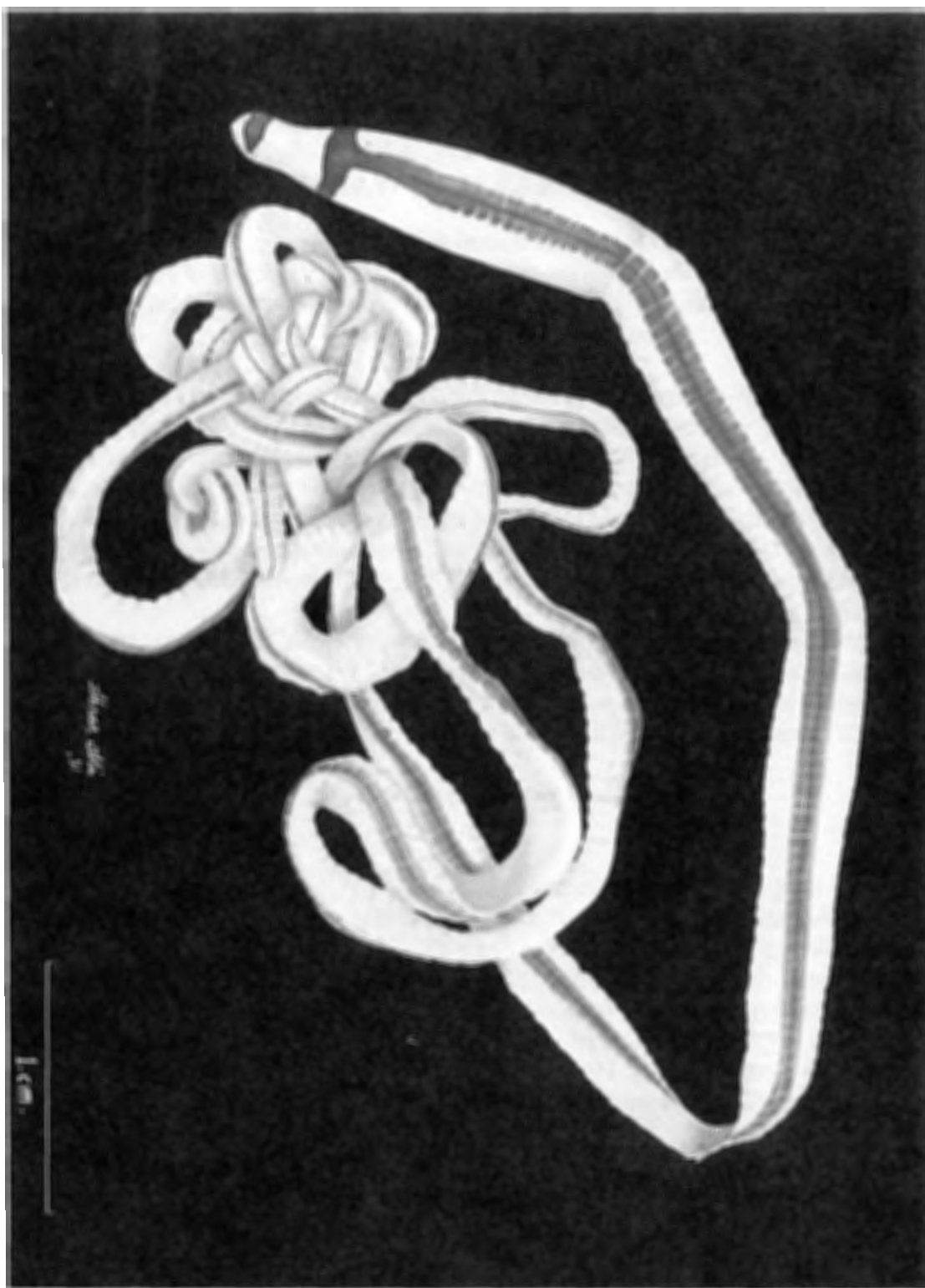


Fig.1. *Baseodiscus hemprichii* (Ehrenberg, 1831)

**COLOUR**

The general body colour is off-white. A broad scarlet streak extends along the mediandorsal line, a similar coloured but narrower streak running mid-ventrally. At the rear of the cephalic lobe is a transverse scarlet collar of pigment, and a patch is located on the dorsal surface of the cephalic lobe.

**DISTRIBUTION**

*Baseodiscus hemprichii* is a tropical species, its distribution extending from the Red Sea to the Pacific Ocean. So far it has been reported from Hawaii and Upolu in Polynesia, Wake Island, the Caroline Islands, the Loyalty Islands, New Britain (Solomon Islands), Papua New Guinea, Australia (Great Barrier Reef), Japan, Taiwan, Java, Ambon, the Malay Peninsula, Maldives, Lakshadweep Islands, Coetivity Island (Mauritius), East Africa, India, Pakistan and the Red Sea.

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