

ART. XLII.—*Notice of a new fossil Annelid (Helminthodes antiquus), from the Lithographic Slates of Solenhofen; by O. C. MARSH, F.G.S., of New Haven, Ct.*

DURING a geological excursion which I recently made through the south of Germany, I spent several days at the lithographic quarries of Solenhofen, in Bavaria, and was so fortunate as to obtain a rich suite of fossils from that well known locality.

One of the most interesting specimens in the collection is a new Annelid, which is so well preserved that not merely the outer form, but also the inner structure, can be determined with considerable certainty. The fossil is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in breadth. The alimentary canal is straight, of nearly equal size throughout the body, and appears to be filled with its original contents.

This is, I believe, the first instance in which any part of an Annelid itself has been found preserved; the fossil remains hitherto referred to this class being either calcareous tubes allied to *Tubicola*, or certain impressions, tracks, and borings attributed to Annelids, but most of them more or less problematical as regards their origin.

At the last meeting of the Geological Society of Germany, held here on the 6th inst., I mentioned the discovery of this specimen; and, as it was evidently quite different from anything previously described, I proposed for the species the name *Helminthodes antiquus*.

A careful comparison with living forms will probably be necessary to determine the true position of this fossil among the Annelids, to which class it undoubtedly belongs, although some points in its structure seem to indicate other affinities. A full description, with illustrations, will soon be ready for publication in the American Journal of Science.

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