

# ON A COLLECTION OF OLIGOCHAETA FROM THE JENOLAN CAVES DISTRICT, NEW SOUTH WALES.

By W. BOARDMAN,

Australian Institute of Anatomy, Canberra.

(Figures 1-7.)

The Jenolan Caves are some seventy miles inland from Sydney and lie on the eastern side of the Main Dividing Range at an altitude of 2,600 feet. The surrounding district is rugged, rising in parts to more than 4,000 feet, and is composed of sedimentary and igneous rocks of Silurian age. The specimens which form the basis of the paper were all collected within a radius of five miles of the Caves House. It is a matter for comment that the native forms recorded belong, without exception, to the genus *Megascolex*, despite the fact that the material examined represents the fruits of much intensive collecting. Michaelsen, who visited the area in the summer of 1905, secured a single example of a *Notoscolex*,<sup>1</sup> but apart from this, species of *Megascolex* only have been identified from the region.

My best thanks are due to Dr. A. B. Walkom, Director of the Australian Museum, who placed the material in my hands for examination. Unless otherwise recorded, the specimens were collected by the late Mr. J. C. Wiburd, at one time Superintendent of the Caves.

## Family MEGASCOLECIDAE.

### Subfamily ACANTHODRILINAE.

Genus *Microscolex* Rosa, emend. Mich.

#### *Microscolex dubius* (Fl.).

*Eudrilus* (?) *dubius* Fletcher, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., (2) ii, 1887, p. 378.

*Microscolex dubius* Michaelsen, Das Tierreich, 10, Oligochaeta, 1900, p. 140.

*Locality*.—Jenolan, 23 June, 1931; a single sexually mature specimen (W.3321).

### Subfamily MEGASCOLECINAE.

Genus *Megascolex* Templeton.

#### *Megascolex wiburdi* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-2.)

*External Characters*.—Length 173 mm.; diameter at mid-body 4 mm. Colour purplish-grey dorsally in front of the clitellum; there is a darker mid-dorsal line which persists behind the clitellum (but does not occur on it) as far back as about the middle of the body, where it fades out; the ventral surface and the rest of the dorsal surface practically devoid of pigment. Number of segments 128.

Prostomium epilobous  $\frac{5}{8}$ ; the tongue not cut off behind and with its sides converging backwards.

Dorsal pores from furrow 4/5.

The setae are in rings which are interrupted dorsally and ventrally, the ventral break being much larger than the dorsal; they are arranged in regular lines except at the tail end; no pairing is apparent other than with lines of setae *a* and *b* ( $ab < bc$ ). Interval  $aa = 3\frac{1}{2}ab$  in front of, and  $= 3\frac{3}{4}ab$  behind the clitellum,  $= 3ab$  at mid-body, and  $= 2\frac{1}{2}-3ab$  in the posterior third;  $zz = ca. 1\frac{1}{2}yz$  in front of the clitellum,  $= 1\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}yz$  throughout the rest of the body, except in the caudal 3-4 cm. where  $zz$  may be only slightly greater than  $yz$ . The following numbers were counted: 20/v, 20/ix, 20/xii, 24/xix, 24/mid-body, mostly 28-32 at the posterior end.

<sup>1</sup> *Notoscolex jenolanensis* Michaelsen, Abh. Ver. Hamburg xix, 1 Hft., 1907, p. 13.