

surface of the body-wall. It is coloured black by pigment balls, 0·002 mm. in size. The cavity also contains a colourless, partly granular, partly hyaline, protoplasmic mass.

No reproductive organs were developed.

The internal wall of the musculature bears a simple layer of non-nucleated cells.

The slightest injury to the animal causes the epidermis to roll up, and the same happens to a less extent with the cuticular fibres, and still less with the muscles. This is not to be wondered at when we remember the enormous pressure to which the animal is subjected at a depth of 11,000 to 12,000 feet. All elastic membranes and fibres roll up when suddenly relieved from a great pressure or strain to which they have been subjected. The very firm and hard cuticle can obviously bear a great pressure. The species appears to spend its entire life free, for the head end exhibits no boring apparatus by which the worm might penetrate the organs of other animals. The specimens are all without reproductive organs, and may be described as larval. They are the largest free-living Nematode larvæ as yet known, and the adult form must be one of the largest free-living Nematodes.

It is unfortunate that no sexually mature specimens were found, as they could not but have exhibited peculiarities, probably more marked than those which make even the larvæ interesting.

The most closely related genera are *Gordius* and *Mermis*, which are, however, destitute of an anus, and parasitic in their larval life. The musculature of the above-described genus is markedly peculiar, and quite different from that observed in other Nematodes.

B. CESTODA.

11. *Tænia clavulus*, n. sp. (Pl. II. figs. 11, 12).

Specimen labelled: "*Tænia* from intestine of *Ptilorhis alberti*, Cape York."

The vessel contains numerous fragments of *Tæniæ*, which probably belong to two specimens, and also the anterior portion of a proglottis chain with the attached scolex. The latter is oval, 0·84 mm. long by 0·6 mm. broad, the suckers are elongated (0·3 mm.), situated on the anterior third of the scolex, and exhibit firm, prominent, almost contiguous margins. The apical surface of the scolex bears a smaller fifth sucker, 0·084 mm. in diameter, armed with a double row of nail-shaped rods. These have not the usual form of *Tænia* hooks, are very small (only 0·011 mm.), and number about sixty. The first proglottides measure 0·29 mm. in breadth and 0·048 mm. in length; the last are 1·1 mm. broad and 0·72 mm. long. The segmentation begins about 0·9 mm. behind the scolex.

Helminths have not been previously observed in *Ptilorhis alberti*, Elliot.¹

¹ Report on the Birds, Zool. Chall. Exp., part viii. p. 87.