

Record of a Lancelet from Hawaii

L. G. ELDREDGE¹

THE SPECIES *Epigonichthys maldivensis* (Forster Cooper, 1903) was originally described from 45 Maldive Island specimens as *Heteropleuron maldivense*. Parker (1904) also recorded 12 other specimens from the same island group. Both Forster Cooper's and Parker's specimens were collected from depths of 15–20 fathoms. No further specimens have been found. The generic status is somewhat confused, for in Franz's (1922) generic revision of the cephalochordates, the species appears as *Asymmetron maldivense*. However, in the same year Hubbs (1922) listed the species in a worldwide review of the group as *Epigonichthys maldivensis*, establishing it in his asymmetrical-form family, Epigonichthyidae. (In neither paper is reference given to the other one.)

The single specimen from Hawaii was collected alive by R. E. Johannes and the author via the "Pele" dredge through coarse sand off Barber's Point, Oahu, at a depth of 16–20 fathoms on March 18, 1962. This report constitutes the first record of a lancelet (amphioxus) in Hawaiian waters.

With two exceptions its characteristic measurements fall within the ranges of Forster Cooper's specimens as analyzed by Punnett (1903) as well as within those given by Franz (1922), who used a combination of the Forster Cooper-Punnett and the Parker characteristics. The following table compares the characteristics of these specimens.

The two features which differ from those previously described are the greater number of myotomes from the anus to the tip of the tail, and the smaller number of gonads, a peculiarity

CHARACTER	PUNNETT (1903)	FRANZ (1922)	OAHU SPEC.
Length (mm)	18–30	16–30	23
No. Myotomes			
Total	70–76	70–76	73
Head to atriopore	42–46	45	43
Atriopore to anus	15–17	16	15
Anus to tip of tail	11–14	12	15
Gonads	23–30	25	18

which might be explained by the intermittent location of the 18 gonads lying irregularly beneath at least 22 myotomes. Forster Cooper's original figure shows what looks like at least one gonad per myotome.

REFERENCES

- FORSTER COOPER, C. 1903. Cephalochorda. I. Systematic and anatomical account, pp. 347–360. In: J. S. Gardiner, ed., *The Fauna and Geography of the Maldive and Laccadive Archipelagoes*, Vol. 1. Cambridge Univ. Press.
- FRANZ, V. 1922. Systematische Revision der Akranier. *Jena Z. Naturwiss.* 58:369–452.
- HUBBS, C. L. 1922. A list of the lancelets of the world with diagnoses of five new species of *Branchiostoma*. *Occas. Pap. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich.* 105:1–16.
- PARKER, G. H. 1904. Maldive cephalochordates with the description of a new species from Florida. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 46(2):39–52.
- PUNNETT, R. C. 1903. Cephalochorda. II. Note on meristic variation in the group, pp. 361–367. In: J. S. Gardiner, ed., *The Fauna and Geography of the Maldive and Laccadive Archipelagoes*, Vol. 1. Cambridge Univ. Press.

¹ Department of Biology, College of Guam, Agaña, Guam. Manuscript received April 3, 1967.