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Philinoglossa marcus n.sp. (Mollusca: Opisthobranchia:
Philinoglossacea) from the British Solomon Islands Protectorate

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Abstract

A NEW species of *Philinoglossa* collected from intertidal shell-sand at three localities in the Solomon Islands Protectorate is described. The anatomy of the animal is described and discussed.

INTRODUCTION

THE Philinoglossacea are a small and little-known order of opisthobranchs of uncertain systematic position. They are all very small, and are members of the interstitial fauna of marine sand. The living animals are not particularly molluscan in appearance but resemble the sand-dwelling kalyptorhynch turbellarians commonly recovered from the same habitat.

Internally their anatomy is very similar to that of the Acochliidae. There is one family, the Philinoglossidae Hertling 1932, containing three genera: *Philinoglossa*, *Pluscula* and *Sapha*, of which the latter are monotypic.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A detailed account of the methods used in collecting, isolating, photographing and preserving the animals is given in Challis (1969). All drawings other than reconstructions were made from photographs or with the aid of a camera lucida.

Order PHILINOGLOSSACEA Hoffman, 1933

Family PHILINOGLOSSIDAE Hertling, 1932

Genus PHILINOGLOSSA Hertling, 1932

Philinoglossa marcus n.sp.

DESCRIPTION: Fully extended, sexually mature animal (Fig. 1a) approximately 2mm long, ratio of length to breadth approximately 1:6, body shape elongate, rectangular, notum narrowing anteriorly, terminating in a blunt, slightly concave end. Anterior region of foot expanded, extending laterally beyond notum, posterior end tapering to a broad rounded tail. Notum and foot separated by a ciliated groove only in anterior third of body. Colour a dirty, translucent white stippled with black spots on the posterior half of the body. Epidermis completely ciliated except for a small area of anterior region of the left lateral groove where a group of gland cells discharge. Shell, gill and gizzard lacking. Two eyes present and visible externally in the living animal. Radular formula $3-0-3 \times 20$. Inner lateral plate large, curved, having a single point and a broad flattened base with an accessory muscle attachment process (Fig. 1b); second lateral plate smaller, similar to the inner plate in shape, but more curved and pointed and lacking the accessory process (Fig. 1c). Outer lateral plate similar, but smaller and with a reduced basal region (Fig. 1d). Genital aperture situated dorso-laterally on right side at posterior end of lateral groove (Fig. 2b). Anus posterior, ventral, slightly sub-

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