

Most of the described species of *Dendropoma* live intertidally and feed by ciliary collection of food trapped on the ctenidial filaments or by the entanglement of particles in a string of mucus secreted by the large pedal mucous gland, or by a combination of both methods (Morton, 1965). The structure of *D. squamifera* suggests a capacity to employ both methods and does not appear to be especially modified towards either extreme. The larger fragments in the faecal material were possibly ensnared in the mucous trap as a result of the action of water currents rather than the animal feeding directly on bottom deposits.

Keen (1961: 198) states that the majority of species burrow in shells or coral, and are rarely attached to rock. The type cluster, as already noted, probably was attached to rock, and rather loosely so, while the other specimens are attached to rock and to encrusting organisms (including *Serpulorbis aotearoicus* Morton, 1951) with no trace of burrowing or penetration of the substrate.

LITERATURE CITED

- KEEN, A. M., 1961. A proposed reclassification of the gastropod family Vermetidae. *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Zool.* 7(3): 181-213, 2 pls., 33 text-figs.
- MORTON, J. E., 1965. Form and function in the evolution of the Vermetidae. *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Zool.* 11(9): 583-630, 15 text-figs., 1 diag.

W. F. PONDER,
Dominion Museum,
Wellington, C.3.