

## Order ACOCHLIDIACEA Odhner 1937

Odhner's diagnosis of the order was re-examined and modified by Marcus (1953). The taxonomic importance of the configuration of the digestive gland is discussed and largely dismissed by him because of its demonstrable variation within a species. He considers the appendages of the head together with the "general aspect, viz., the form of the visceral hump and the more or less extended detachment of the foot from the rest of the body" to be the most important external characteristics. Internally the radula, the form of the reproductive system, the arrangement of the central nervous system and the degree to which the body wall is invested with epithelial glands are considered to be of taxonomic importance.

## Family MICROHEDYLIDAE

Visceral sac elongate and distinctly separated from the anterior body. Foot narrow terminating in a short free end beneath the anterior part of the visceral sac. Digestive gland an unbranched elongated tube. Oral tentacles present. Rhinophores present or absent. Sexes separate, male with neither vas deferens nor penis.

*Paraganitus* n.gen.

Microhedyliidae with rhinophores and oral tentacles rounded in cross section. Radular formula 0-1-0, two lateral jaws. Sexes separate, penis lacking in male, female with a short ciliated groove running from the genital aperture to a point midway along the anterior body, male lacking a ciliated groove but possessing an intra-epidermal duct. Digestive gland a simple tube arranged in a double dorso-ventral loop.

It is with reluctance that I erect a new genus for this animal since it is clearly closely related to *Ganitus evelinae* Marcus 1953. The radular formula, together with the number and shape of the individual teeth, which are not known elsewhere amongst the Acochlidiacea, would clearly place the present species in the genus *Ganitus*. However, the possession of small but well-formed rhinophores together with the more complex shape of the digestive gland and the presence of a male intra-epidermal duct are, in my opinion, sufficient distinction to warrant the erection of a further genus. I have named the new genus *Paraganitus* to indicate its close relationship with the existing genus.

Type species (monotypy) *Paraganitus ellynnae* n.sp.

*Paraganitus ellynnae* n.sp.

**DESCRIPTION:** The fully extended animal (Fig. 1, A) approximately 1.8mm long, ratio of width to length approximately 1:10 and that of the anterior body to the visceral sac 1:2. In the juvenile animal visceral sac short and wide and about equal in length with the anterior body. In life colour a translucent white; digestive gland visible as an indistinct brown line. Foot very short terminating almost immediately beneath the anterior end of the visceral sac. Hind end of foot free and moderately pointed, sole of foot densely ciliated over its entire length. Oral tentacles rounded in cross section and of small diameter; together longer than half the length of the anterior body and normally carried in life in a gentle curve at right angles to the body. Rhinophores less than half the length of the oral tentacles and correspondingly thinner. Spicules were noted in neither the living nor the preserved animal and although fixation was carried out in an acid medium (Bouin) it seems unlikely that they have been dissolved for they are present in a closely related species fixed in an identical fashion. Anterior region (Fig. 2, A) isolated internally from visceral sac by a thin diaphragm. Epidermis of the whole animal markedly glandular with both colourless and cyanophil gland cells well represented. Foot particularly glandular with pedal glands (as in *G. evelinae*) numerous along its borders. Central nervous system similar to that described for *G. evelinae* though in some specimens the pedal ganglia appear to lie ventral and posterior to the cerebral ganglia rather than immediately beneath them. Eyes lacking, statocysts with a single otolith. Mouth situated below the oral tentacles leading to a narrow oral tube, front end of the oral tube surrounded by a pair of labial glands. A little way in from the outer lips further glands discharge into the oral tube which passes through the nerve ring and immediately enters the buccal mass the entrance of which has