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The Male Reproductive Organs and Genitalia of *Anisolabis littorea* (White) (Dermaptera: Labiduridae)

By E. T. GILES

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Abstract

THE male reproductive organs and genitalia of *Anisolabis littorea* (White) 1846 Dermaptera: Labiduridae) are described macroscopically and histologically. The structures and ducts are almost completely paired, but are not symmetrically arranged. Some comparison is made between the condition in *A. littorea* and that already described in other Dermaptera, but this has been hindered by the virtual absence of histological work. There is much variation within the Labiduridae in respect of the reproductive organs. The functions of certain associated structures have been considered.

INTRODUCTION

Anisolabis littorea (White) 1846 is the common endemic sea-shore earwig of New Zealand and its outlying islands. The growth of the head capsule and antennae and the biology of the species have been recorded in earlier papers by the writer (Giles, 1952, 1953). An account of the female reproductive system is in preparation.

The male genitalia of Dermaptera are now held to provide the most useful systematic characters for the group, but little morphological and no histological work, however, has been done on the organs. The reproductive organs have received even less attention. The present paper attempts to remedy these deficiencies in respect of *Anisolabis littorea.* The terminology used follows that of Snodgrass (1957) and is therefore morphological rather than systematic. However, certain terms employed by Burr (1915) and by Hincks (1956), of a more strictly systematic nature, will be used.

It is well known that males of the superfamily Labiduroidea have the genitalia paired, but not necessarily symmetrical. In the family Labiduridae the male genitalia are paired but asymmetrical (Hincks, 1956). Earlier work has shown that in the Labiduridae the male reproductive organs are also paired, but the extent of the duplication is very variable. In *Anisolabis littorea* there is almost complete pairing and some asymmetry of the organs, but the relative position of the species within the family in this respect is not apparent. Further work on other members of the family should rectify this and show whether relationships based on the relative

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