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The Female Reproductive Organs and Genital Segments of
Anisolabis littorea (White) (Dermaptera: Labiduridae)

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Abstract

THE female reproductive organs and genital segments of *Anisolabis littorea* (White) 1846 (Dermaptera: Labiduridae) are described. The histology of the former is also dealt with. The reproductive organs, with polytrophic ovarioles, are simple. Vestiges of an ovipositor are present, but the homologies of the parts are obscure. These, together with the spermatheca, may be useful in the systematics of Dermaptera, which at present are based on the male genitalia.

INTRODUCTION

THE writer has already (Giles, 1961) described the male reproductive organs and genitalia of *Anisolabis littorea* (White) 1846, the endemic coastal earwig of New Zealand. The present paper concludes the series on the reproductive systems of the species. However, it is intended to publish shortly a paper on the alimentary canal of *A. littorea*.

The female reproductive organs of *Anisolabis littorea* are of the form typical of oviparous insects. They are noteworthy for their simplicity, but it is not known whether this is a primitive or a derived condition. The reproductive organs of some other female Dermaptera have been described (see below), but little is known about their histology as a whole. In *A. littorea* there are no external genitalia, but two pairs of small sclerotised flaps (p. 301) beneath the subgenital plate may represent these structures. Large external female genitalia are absent from most Dermaptera, but two pairs of processes, probably representing the dorsal and ventral valvulae are found in many Pygidicranidae (Burr, 1916; Hincks, 1951, 1959). No use has been made of the female genitalia (of whatever form) in the systematics of the Dermaptera. It may well be that these structures could be useful in this regard.

As mentioned above, the reproductive organs and genital segments of a wide range of Dermaptera have been studied by a number of authors—most of the work being fairly generalised. Sharp (1895) figures and very briefly describes the ovaries of *Forficula auricularia* L. and of *Labidura riparia* (Pallas) 1773. Berlese (1909) illustrates and mentions the reproductive organs of *L. riparia* and