

- 37 (36) Two tentacle-scales *Amphioplus*
 38 (33) Disc not completely scaled, either above or below.
 39 (40) Disc scaled above, but partly or wholly naked below.
 Tentacle-scales present (two in all known species) *Gymnoplus* n.g.
 40 (39) Disc naked above and below, save for the radial shields
 and an adjoining narrow zone of scales bordering the
 radial shields. One or two tentacle-scales *Ophionephthys*

Amphinephthys n.g.

DIAGNOSIS. *Amphiuridae* in which the oral papillae do not form a series along the outer side of the jaw, but comprise only an infradental papilla separated by a naked diastema from a distal papilla, with an internal papilla visible within the jaw, above the diastema; the oral cleft gaping widely when the jaws are closed: the disc without spines, naked above and below, save for the radial shields and a narrow zone of scales bordering the shields; 1 or 2 tentacle-scales.

TYPE SPECIES. *Amphiura crossota* Murakami, 1943. Caroline Islands, littoral. The type species, which has two tentacle-scales, is illustrated by Murakami, J. Dept. Agric., Kyusyu Imp. Univ., 7 (4-6), p. 173, Fig. 3 (1943).

At least three Pacific littoral species may be referred to the genus, which is apparently the direct equivalent of *Ophionephthys* among the *Amphiura* group of genera.

INCLUDED SPECIES. *crossota* (Murakami), *diacritica* (H. L. Clark), *microsoma* (H. L. Clark), (?) *polyacantha* (Ltk. & Mrtsn.).

It is possible that *Amphiura simonsi* A. M. Clark, from South Africa, may be a member of the genus; the disc was torn off the type specimen, suggesting that it may have been soft and naked. As stressed by Clark, the mouth-parts are essentially of the *Amphiura* type, despite the presence of a third (external) papilla on the adoral plate. The first two arm-joints lack tentacle-scales, but thereafter a single large scale is developed. *Amphinephthys* is founded on a species in which two tentacle-scales occur, so it may prove desirable to segregate the species with only one scale in a separate genus, but more material is required.

Whether *Amphiura polyacantha* Ltk. & Mrtsn. also falls here is uncertain, as the description of that species (Ltk. & Mrtsn., 1899, p. 146) is at variance with the published figures (*Ibid.*, Pl. 9, fig. 6-8).

Ophiopeltis Düben & Koren, 1846

DIAGNOSIS. *Amphiuridae* in which the oral papillae do not form a continuous series along the outer margin of the jaw, but comprise only an infradental papilla separated by a naked diastema from a distal papilla, with an internal papilla visible within the jaw, above the diastema; the oral cleft gaping widely when the jaws are shut; the disc without spines, naked above and below, save for the radial shields and a zone of scales adjoining the shields, mainly at their proximal ends; radial shields elongate, parallel, contiguous; no tentacle-scale.

TYPE SPECIES. *Ophiopeltis securigera* Düben & Koren, 1846, north-east Atlantic, 40-400 m. Illustration of type species in Mortensen, *Echinoderms of the British Isles*, p. 216, fig. 122, d-f (1927).

The genus as here understood comprises 9 species, of which 6 have until now been included in *Ophionephthys*, and 3 in *Amphiura*. *Ophiopeltis* is a cosmopolitan genus of mainly shallow-water species.

INCLUDED SPECIES. *aestuarii* (Matsumoto), *africana* (Balinsky), *decacantha* (H. L. Clark), *ecnomiotata* (H. L. Clark), *heptacantha* (Mortensen), *iranica* (Mortensen), *octacantha* (H. L. Clark), *securigera* Düben & Koren, *vadicola* (Matsumoto).

Ophiopeltis securigera often approaches *Ophionema* in having the distal oral papilla reduced, the radial shields being contiguous throughout their length in