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Chiridota mortenseni n.sp., a New Apodous Holothurian
From New Zealand.

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Abstract

A new apodous holothurian is described from Little Papanui, Otago, New Zealand.

Chiridota mortenseni n.sp.

DIAGNOSIS: Elongate, cylindrical, light red in the living state, orange-brown in alcohol. Wheel papillae numerous in the dorsal interradii, scattered ventrally. Wheels confined to the papillae. Spinous rods (average length, 1 mm), present in small numbers in the skin. Radial pieces of the calcareous ring perforated for the passage of the radial nerves; both radials and interradials approximately square, with a shallow posterior notch. Tentacle rods smooth, not extensively bifurcating.

DESCRIPTION: The single specimen is approximately cylindrical and elongate, and the skin is thin and firm, but opaque. When alive, the specimen was a light red in colour, with numerous paler spots, while in alcohol the colour is orange-brown, darker near the posterior end of the body. The tentacles are light orange.

The skin carries a number of small, regular, circular papillae, which are present in great numbers on the dorsal side, but are more scattered ventrally. These papillae lie in the interradii, but are not strictly confined to them, so that on superficial examination they appear to be scattered over the whole of the dorsal surface. Near the anterior and posterior extremities of the body the papillae are more closely aggregated.

The mouth is circular, surrounded by a single ring of eleven tentacles which vary slightly in size. Each tentacle carries six or seven pairs of digits, the terminal pair being the longest in each case.

Deposits of four kinds are present in this species:—

1. Wheels: Most of the papillae in the skin are composed entirely of aggregations of 20 to 60 six-spoked wheels. Wheel diameter varies between 0.05 mm and 0.1 mm. The inturned margins of the wheels are finely serrated, the serrations averaging