

The following description is based on two clitellate specimens, one entire, one opened along the dorsal mid-line.

Length, about 36 mm. Diameter, about 3.5 mm. 1 specimen with 66 segments, 1 with 64.

Colour, dark brown; Schmarda and Beddard say dark red, which may have been the colour of living specimens.

Clitellum $\frac{1}{2}$ xiii or xiv-xvii, complete.

Prostomium tanylobous.

Chaetae 8/segment: $dd > cd$; $bc = cd > aa$; $aa > ab$.

On xviii there is a slightly raised, white, tumid band, extending transversely across the ventral mid-line from chaeta b on one side to chaeta b on the other side. The male pores are on this band, one on each side, in the position of chaeta a, which is absent on xviii. An elliptical tuberculum pubertatis covers the inter-segmental furrow 14/15, and is as wide as aa (Fig. 11).

The spermathecal pores are not in intersegmental furrows, but close to the anterior margins of viii and ix.

There is no muscular thickening of the anterior septa.

Pharynx in i-iv. Gizzard in v, short and thick walled. Oesophageal glands in xiii. Intestine commences in xvi.

Dorsal blood vessels unpaired. Hearts from dorsal blood vessel in x, xi, xii.

Testes in x, xi. Ovaries in xiii. Vesiculae seminales in xi, xii, racemose. Prostates commence in xviii; left prostate extends back to xix, crosses beneath intestine and forward to xvi, then back to xviii on the right side; right prostate extends straight back to xxvi, lying close to the ventral nerve cord. Spermathecae in viii, ix; irregular pyriform sac with slender duct; small, slender, pyriform diverticulum opening by narrow duct into anterior aspect of spermathecal duct (Fig. 12).

Micronephridial; tubules very numerous, on ventro-lateral and lateral aspects of the body wall.

REMARKS. There has always been doubt as to whether Schmarda's specimens of this species were actually collected in New Zealand. In the original description, the locality given was "Mt Wellington, New Zealand". The present specimens do not help, as there is no indication of locality.

The specimens here described most closely resemble *Megascolides kirki* (Benham), a New Zealand species originally recorded from Ohaeawai, in North Auckland. The following differences from *M. kirki* are noted:

	<i>M. orthostichon</i>	<i>M. kirki</i>
Clitellum	complete	dorsal and lateral
Male pores	one each end of transverse band	each on a separate square papilla
Oesophageal glands	in xiii	in xiv

There are a number of other small differences, but the two species are similar and are apparently closely related. Their close relationship is probably as good evidence as is available that *M. orthostichon* is a New Zealand species.