

*Arms* short compared with the body, furnished with two rows of globular suckers.

*Tentacles* present, and bearing four rows of suckers on the distal extremity (*Taonius pavo*, doubtful as regards the last point, owing to mutilation).

*Gladius* long and narrow, somewhat expanded towards the fins and forming a hollow pointed cone behind.

The genus *Taonius* was established by Steenstrup in 1861 to include *Loligo pavo*, Lesueur, and *Taonius hyperboreus*, and since his description has been overlooked by most subsequent writers it may not be out of place to translate some parts of it.

In the first place, the whole family Cranchiæformes is characterised thus: "The mantle is firmly united with the head at three separate points—namely, directly in the dorsal median line, and indirectly by means of the funnel on either side of it, where there is usually a movable sliding cartilaginous articulation or hook in other Cephalopoda."<sup>1</sup> Then, under the heading *Taonius hyperboreus*, he adds: "As soon as the relations of the tentacles and the structure of the arms in the genus *Leachia* are carefully considered, it is obvious that *Loligopsis pavo*, Lesueur, and *Leachia hyperborea*, Steenstrup, which have hitherto been referred to it, must form a separate group. For in addition to the fact that the latter species has, and the former seems to have had, tentacles, both have narrow elongated fins, which extend along a large portion of the body, and are strikingly characterised by their enormous eyes, which almost meet on the ventral surface, and by a funnel, which is shorter and smaller than that of *Leachia*. The gladius agrees very well with that of other Cranchias, but may, on the whole, be described as expanded at the inferior extremity."

"The generic name *Taonius* is chosen more especially with reference to the longest known species, whose beautiful coloured spots suggested the specific name *pavo*; how far similar spots may have been present on the body of my species *hyperboreus*, I cannot say. . . . In case a division of the genus should become desirable, I regard the older species *Lol. pavo*, Les., as the type."

It appears from these passages that Steenstrup regarded *Loligo pavo*, Lesueur, as the type of his genus, and he did not consider it essential to make a long and detailed statement of its characters, because d'Orbigny had already done this when in 1839 he took Lesueur's *Loligo pavo*, named it *Loligopsis pavo*, and then proceeded to draw up a full generic diagnosis based upon this specimen and upon another (*Taonius cymoctypus*) which he erroneously regarded as belonging to the same species; in other words, Steenstrup's *Taonius* is practically identical with d'Orbigny's *Loligopsis*. It is of great importance that this should be clearly understood, because in 1882 Professor A. E. Verrill constituted<sup>2</sup> a new genus, *Desmoteuthis*, based upon a specimen captured near the

<sup>1</sup> Overblik, p. 70.

<sup>2</sup> Céph. N. E. Amer., p. 216.