

Dexiobranchæa,¹ Boas.

1855. *Pneumodermon* (*pars*), Gegenbaur, Untersuchungen über Pteropoden und Heteropoden, p. 74.

1862. *Pneumodermopsis*, Bronn, Die Klassen und Ordnungen des Thierreichs, Bd. iii. pp. 584, 645.

1885. *Dexiobranchæa*, Boas, Vorläufige Mittheilung über einige Gymnosomen Pteropoden, Zool. Anzeiger, No. 210, p. 688.

Body rather long, pointed posteriorly. Visceral mass not extending to the posterior end of the body.

Head moderately lengthened; anterior (labial or oral) tentacles strong.

Foot; posterior lobe pointed at its free extremity.

Lateral Gill; a simple, more or less long appendage, of a triangular shape, without longitudinal crests or fringes.

Proboscis moderately long. The radula in the adult has always a median tooth. The hook-sacs are but little developed, and consist of small deep depressions which contain short hooks.

Buccal Appendages.—There are morphologically three acetabuliferous appendages; one median, which becomes anterior during the evagination of the proboscis, and always bears five suckers, and two lateral appendages. The two latter, or the median appendage alone, or all three appendages, may be atrophied, and their suckers are then directly inserted on the ventral wall of the buccal cavity, forming groups corresponding to the atrophied appendages. The five suckers of the median appendage, or of the corresponding group, are always disposed in the following manner—a median distal sucker on the free extremity of the appendage, and two lateral ones on each side. The number of the suckers of the lateral appendage varies according to the species.

The skin is pigmented, and the two posterior ciliated rings generally remain a very long time.

Boas chiefly contributed to make this genus² well known; he was the first to describe with precision the acetabuliferous appendages, and of five species now known he discovered three. I think the name *Dexiobranchæa*, that he gave to this group, ought to be preserved, although Bronn had previously formed the genus *Pneumodermopsis* for the same type from one of its principal characters (viz., the absence of a posterior gill), because the latter genus was founded on the insufficient description, without a figure, which Gegenbaur gave of *Pneumodermon ciliatum*. But Boas was the first to make known the true characters of this genus, and he has figured specimens under the name of *Dexiobranchæa*, and it is therefore desirable to preserve this last name, rather than that of *Pneumodermopsis*, which accords with no good characters nor figures.

As I have said, this genus includes five species, that may be distinguished as follows:—

¹ From δεξιός, on the right side, and βραγχία, gill.

² Von Ihering regarded it as a larva (Vergleichende Anatomie des Nervensystems und Phylogenie der Mollusken p. 246).