

Desmodora (Brachydesmodora) merostomacha Steiner.

STEINER 1921, p. 52, pl. III, fig. 12a—c.

Locality: Honolulu, the Coast: 17 ♂♂, 18 ♀♀, 10 juv.

Dimensions:

♂ $L = 2.300$ mm, $a = 33.33$, $b = 6.57$, $c = 25.56$,

♀ $L = 1.670$ mm, $a = 25.7$, $b = 5.57$, $c = 28.8$, $V = 46.11$ %.

During the examination of the numerous *Desmodores* from Hawaii I had the pleasure to refind a lot of specimens of both sexes of this, especially in the shape of the oesophageal region of the body, very characteristic species, described by STEINER from Suez.

This species differs from the other hitherto known *Desmodores* by the rather elongated, posteriorly gradually thickened oesophagus. A bulb is not developed.

The body of the Honolulu-specimens is on the whole evenly thick, in the usual way annulated and surrounded by very slender bands. The head, the cuticle of which is very thickened, especially posteriorly, is very short and provided at the front end with numerous rather small bristles. Immediately behind its middle the buccal cavity is armed with a rather strong, dorsal tooth. Lateral organs were not observable.

The oesophagus, the muscles of which are interrupted twice in the posterior half by not fibrillar, plasmatic tissue, is in the posterior half or sometimes in the 2 posterior thirds a little thicker than in the anterior part.

The tail is short, conical. The spicules are also short, bent, at the proximal ends button-shaped.

The immediately behind the spicules situated accessory piece measures $\frac{1}{3}$ of the length of the spicules.

The vulva is situated in front of the middle of the body. The females organs are paired, symmetrical.

Geographical distribution: Red Sea: Suez, in the reef Zone (Steiner 1921).