

Arachnidium and the new genus may be strictly compared with that between these two genera; but the structure of the polypide differs from that of any of the Paludicellina and the method of budding, although superficially similar, may be distinguished at once by the fact that more than one lateral bud is sometimes produced on the same side of a zooecium. On the whole, therefore, I am inclined to regard *Platypolyzoon* as allied to *Arachnidium*.

A word may be said about the function of the chitinous rods that surround the zooecium in the new species. They appear to be capable of being straightened into erect supports, but in most of the zooecia in the type specimens are bent in a >-like manner, so that the dorsal wall of the zooecium is closely approximated to the ventral. This appears to be due to the fact that the parietal muscles are strongly contracted and is possibly connected with the extrusion of the tentacles of the polypide, which in nearly all the zooecia are in a semi-extruded condition.

No. 2.—ON A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF
MARINE PARASITIC GASTROPOD
FROM THE INDIAN REGION.

By H. B. PRESTON, F.Z.S

Epistethe, gen. nov.

Shell imperforate, subhyaline, vitroriform with sunken spire, the last whorl overhanging the penultimate.

Epistethe gonodactyli, sp. nov.

Shell thin, semi-transparent, sub-covneous, ovate, depressed, greyish white above, shading to brownish yellow on the last whorl; whorls 3, rapidly increasing, the first minute, the second overlapped and partly concealed by the last which is, towards the latter portion, developed above into a membranaceous infra-sutural projection, and is proportionately very large, marked with radiate creases and sculptured with microscopic, silky, arcuate, transverse striae; suture impressed in the earlier, cavernous in the later stage; base of shell somewhat convex; columella callously, outwardly margined, descending in a curve; labrum thin, membranaceous, receding below, very slightly projecting in front; aperture depressedly sub-ovate. Alt. 3.5, diam. max. 6.5, diam. min. 5 mm. Aperture: alt. 3.5 (nearly), diam. 3.75 mm.

Habitat.—Parasitic on the ventral surface of a Stomatopod crustacean, *Gonodactylus chiragra*, from shallow water in the Persian Gulf; also found on specimens of the same species from the Andaman Islands.

Through the unfailing courtesy of Mr. A. C. Robson of the British Museum, who very kindly examined the animal for me,



Epistethe gonodactyli, × 2.

as far as it was possible to do so without actually abstracting it from the shell, I am able to supply the following note:—"The parasite is found closely adhering to the ventral surface of its host's thorax. The means of fixation were not evident under the circumstances in which the animal was examined, though it seems likely that the foot may be modified as an adhesive organ. The only other character of interest that can be made out without dissection, is the presence of (?) epipodial fringes displayed all round the region of the foot extending two or three millimetres beyond the shell aperture as it rests applied to the body of the host. These fringes have a nodulated surface and are in many places extensively foliated. As a mere guess I am inclined to think they may be respiratory in function, but such a question can only be solved by dissection. There seems to be no reason, upon superficial anatomical grounds, for identifying it with *Cochliolepis parasiticus* (Stimson, *Proc. Bost. Soc. N. Hist.*, 1859, Vol. VI). Examination of from sixty to seventy specimens of *Gonodactylus chiragra* from the same and other eastern localities, in the collection of the British Museum, failed to reveal more examples."

I am in some doubt as to the actual systematic position of the present genus; from the shell characters alone and from the fact of its being parasitic in its habits, I would suggest the neighbourhood of *Robillardia*¹ though the foliated surface of the foot recalls certain members of the Trochidae.

¹ *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, London, 1889, vol. iii, pp. 270—71.