

“Several species of *Tanais* were obtained from deep water, one of these at Station 248 in 2900 fathoms; this is the greatest depth at which any Isopod is known to exist; all the deep-sea species of *Tanais*, without exception, are entirely blind, but this fact is the less noteworthy, since several species from shallow water are also blind.

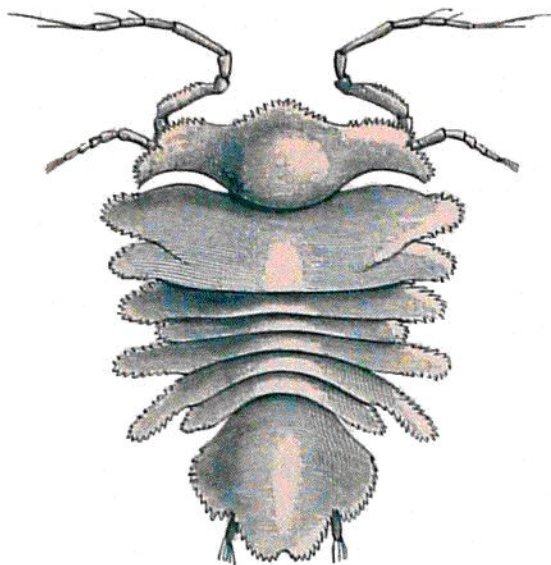


FIG. 326.—*Neasellus kerguelensis*, n. gen. and sp.

“The long stay of the Challenger at Kerguelen naturally resulted in the collection of a large number of new forms of Isopoda from this little explored region; several of these, however, have been since described from the collections made during the cruise of the German ship ‘Gazelle.’¹ The Isopoda appear to form a more important element in the fauna of this region than anywhere else. According to Dr. v. Willemoes Suhm about 20 per cent. of the Kerguelen Crustacea belong to this order.²

“An abundant species is *Tanais willemoesii*, Studer. This Isopod is remarkable for the fact that the females carry their eggs in two sacs attached between the fourth and fifth pairs of legs. Dr. v. Willemoes

Suhm has already referred to this peculiarity; even in the youngest females the sacs are present, and with the normal shape and position, so that it is impossible to state whether they are entirely new and anomalous structures, or whether they result from the modification of the ordinary ovigerous lamellæ that are met with in other Isopoda.

“The accompanying woodcut (fig. 326) is a representation of a very curious little Isopod, of which only a single example was got; the figure is greatly enlarged, since the specimen itself does not measure more than one-tenth of an inch in length, it is remarkable for the great lateral elongation of the head, so that the antennæ come to be placed quite at the side of the body instead of being close to the median line. The epimera of all the segments as well as the fore part of the head and the caudal shield are fringed with a dense series of leaf-shaped processes; the eyes are completely aborted. This Isopod evidently belongs to the family of the Asellina, and I have called it *Neasellus kerguelensis*.

“Other characteristic Kerguelen Isopoda represented by specimens in the Challenger collection have been already described by Studer.”

¹ Th. Studer, *Archiv f. Naturgesch.*, Jahrg. xlv. Bd. i. p. 19, 1879; *Abhandl. d. k. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin*, pp. 1–28, 1883.

² *Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond.*, vol. xxiv. p. 590, 1876.