

edge of the reef, in about 2 fathoms of water, entangled in an inextricable mass. Where they have freedom they move through the water in a spiral manner. He describes the males as light brown (buff?) and the females as green, and mentions that both sexes rapidly break up in the sea, "by a natural process by which the species is propagated." Specimens which he kept in an aquarium also broke in pieces, and he did not succeed in rearing the ova. His statistics in regard to the appearance of the *Palolo* are both numerous and valuable.<sup>1</sup>

Lately further observations on the *Palolo* have been made by the Rev. T. Powell, of Samoa.<sup>2</sup> He gives the length as from 1 to 20 inches, and the diameter from  $\frac{1}{10}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch, so that the form must sometimes attain a very considerable size. Those hitherto sent to this country are small. There are four shades, viz., white, light brown or ochre, greyish indigo, and dark green; the two former colours being males, the latter females. He remarks that the setæ in some move with great rapidity in all directions like "the cilia of a rotifer," a somewhat striking comparison. He made the interesting observation that it is not necessary for the *Palolo* to break up to discharge its reproductive elements, for several complete forms sent out streams of ova and spermatozoa through what he terms the oviducts and seminal ducts "which extend on each side from the centre of the back, between each pair of somites, and terminate on the under side between each pair of lateral appendages." Moreover, he caught many on the *Palolo*-ground almost free from sexual elements, and yet entire as regards their segments.

The *Palolo* moves through the water in a serpentine manner, but in rising from the bottom it assumes a somewhat spiral form. This author also notices the acute sight of the Annelids and their activity in escaping capture. An observation he makes about the tail being furnished with a "disk or the power of forming itself into one" is obscure, though he probably means that the anus is suctorial, for no special apparatus of this nature is apparent, and it certainly does not require such to hold on to its tube in the coral, for it is provided with a far more efficient method.

Mr. Powell observes that the natives are generally correct in predicting the appearance of the *Palolo*, taking, as an indication of the approach of the season, the appearance

<sup>1</sup> In the collection of the British Museum are several specimens presented by W. Wykeham Perry, Esq., in 1875, from Mota Island, New Hebrides, and of which it is recorded that "I found these Annelids on the coral beach at Mota. They were plentiful, though difficult to find, or rather get out of the holes in the coral, to which they adhered with their legs. They present every resemblance to *Palolo*. The natives call them A'oon, and say they eat them. I succeeded in getting three or four entire specimens from the coral-rock left exposed at low water." The specimens referred to are long dark bluish-green Phyllodocidæ, with beautiful iridescent tints. The head has four lobate tentacular cirri at the tip of the snout, three lobate tentacular cirri laterally on each side, and a more slender one dorsally, behind and to the inner side of each upper process. The body is nearly 13 inches in length, and not thicker than *Palolo*. The under surface is dusky green, while the lobate processes of the head are light brown, and the two slender cirri of a dull greenish colour, like the appendages of the feet. The tail is terminated by two short processes. The specimens appeared to resemble each other closely, and external examination revealed no sexual products.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Linn. Soc. Lond.*, vol. xvi. p. 393, 1882.