

# DESCRIPTION OF GENERA AND SPECIES.

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## Order GEPHYREA.

Annelids with degenerated segmentation, without external jointing, without parapodia, and without dorsal gills. There is a closed vascular system, and one to three (rarely six) pairs of segmental organs. There are seldom numerous setæ, and in most species none. The sexes are separate. Found in all seas.

### A. GEPHYREA CHÆTIFERA.

#### *Gephyrea with setæ.*

#### Genus 1. *Sternaspis*, Otto.

The body is indistinctly segmented, and there are bundles of setæ both anteriorly and posteriorly. The ventral surface is smooth, and at the posterior end there is a shield, the borders of which are provided with setæ. The anterior end of the body bears a long forked proboscis. Anus at the posterior end, and beside it numerous retractile gill-filaments (Kiemenfäden). Found in all seas.

Since Sluiter found a long forked proboscis in the East Indian *Sternaspis spinosa*, Sluiter, we are probably justified in assuming the presence of a similar proboscis in the other species of the genus, although it has as yet been observed only in that one. Sluiter himself reports, indeed, that the proboscis is always thrown off by the animal a few minutes after its capture.

It does not seem to be beyond question whether the form preserved in the Challenger collection can be regarded as really the representative of a distinct species. All the species of *Sternaspis* as yet known are very like one another, and our *Sternaspis princeps* is only distinguished by subordinate characters, on the one hand from *Sternaspis spinosa*, Sluiter, from Batavia, and on the other from the *Sternaspis costata* of Marenzeller, from the Bay of Miya. The imperfect preservation of the Challenger specimen unfortunately does not admit of any intimate description of the anatomical structure.