

## DESCRIPTIONS OF GENERA AND SPECIES.

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Every one who, within the last few years, has attempted the task of identifying a considerable collection of Cephalopoda must have felt great difficulty in deciding what forms were to be regarded as new; a result mainly owing to the brevity and insufficiency of the published descriptions of a large proportion of the hitherto known species. Taking warning by such experiences I have endeavoured to bequeath to my successors as little trouble in this respect as may be, though I cannot hope that there will not come a time when the diagnoses given below will be found inadequate to the requirements of the day. I have endeavoured, without being unduly prolix, to make mention of every feature in the appearance of the animal which could be of systematic significance, whether I have myself thought it of much importance in that respect or not.

The specimen has been invariably placed for descriptive purposes in a position, indicated in the annexed woodcut (Fig. 1), which agrees with what may be called the

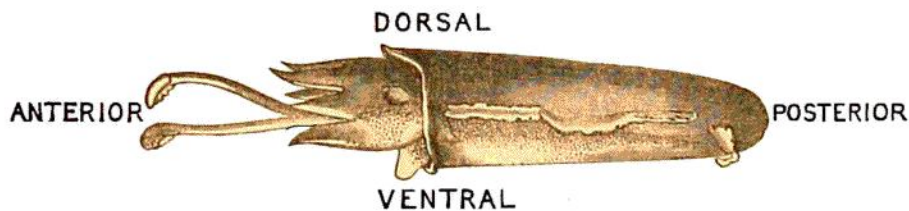


FIG. 1.—Lateral view of a *Sepia*, showing the position in which the specimen is placed for description.

“morphological disposition” adopted by Lankester,<sup>1</sup> if the inclination to the horizontal, which is inconvenient for practical purposes, be neglected. In speaking of the arms, the side which is turned towards the mouth and bears the suckers has been called the “inner” and the opposite the “outer,” and the same terms have been applied to the two surfaces of the interbrachial membrane or “umbrella.” “Breadth” has always been used to signify a transverse measurement, and “length” a measurement parallel to the longitudinal axis of the animal, although, as in the fins of *Cirroteuthis*, the former may greatly exceed the latter. Several structures, to whose systematic value attention has been called by Steenstrup, have been called by translations of his names; thus “Hæftepuder” has been rendered by “fixing cushions.” Other names which have been adopted for the parts of the shells of *Sepia* and for other structures will be explained as they arise.

<sup>1</sup> Ency. Brit., vol. xvi. p. 664, 1884.