

Sepiella, Gray, Steenstrup.

This generic name was first informally proposed by Gray¹ in 1849, but no adequate account was given of its characters, until in 1880 Steenstrup² published a paper which was then a complete Monograph of the genus, and to which nothing of importance has been added since.

Three conspicuous characters occur in both sexes of all members of this group, which can hardly be expressed better than in Steenstrup's Latin diagnosis, here quoted.

“*Sepiella* præbet;—

“1. *Sepium* minus validum, inerme, neque rostro seu mucrone (ut in plurimis *Sepiis*) neque carina (ut in *Sep. elegante*, d'Orb.) dorsali ornatum.

“2. *Fibulam* palliarem complicatam, conulo nempe elevato, in profundam cavitatem siphunculo recipiendo instructam.

“3. *Saccum* subcutaneum, inter sepium et cutem dorsualem pallii situm, valde plicatum, plicis pluries divisis et inter se connexis, apertura sat conspicua in pagina inferiori abdominis inter radices pinnarum præditum.”

Steenstrup enumerated two species in this genus, one being the *Sepia ornata*, Rang, the other *Sepia inermis*, v. Hass., of which he showed *Sepia microcheirus*, Gray, to be the female; having recently had the opportunity of examining Gray's types in the British Museum I can fully confirm all his statements on this head. Last year, however, Dr. Pfeffer described four species and Dr. de Rochebrune another (see p. 25), whilst it seems to me likely that two forms of his *Diphtherosepion* should be referred to this genus.

One very fine specimen was obtained by the Challenger Expedition from the Inland Sea, Japan, which I have not succeeded in certainly identifying with any of the species hitherto described. It does not present any important variation from the definition given of *Sepiella maindroni*, Rochebr., but so many important details are wanting in the description of this type that certainty is impossible, but I have judged it best to apply his name to the Challenger specimen, rather than create a new species unnecessarily.

Sepiella maindroni (?), de Rochebrune (Pl. XXII. figs. 1–10).

1884. *Sepiella maindroni*, Rochebr., Monogr. Sepiadæ, p. 89.

Habitat.—Inland Sea, Japan. One specimen, ♀.

Pondichery (de Rochebrune).

I cannot find any difference between the specimen in the Challenger collection and Dr. de Rochebrune's description, but in this latter so many points of specific import-

¹ Gray, Brit. Mus. Cat., p. 106.

² *Vid. Meddel. nat. Foren. Kjøbenhavn*, pp. 347–356, 1880.