

definitive results. The first, and a very commendable, attempt to bring light into this chaos, was made by Boas,¹ and in the following systematic account of the genus *Pneumonoderma* I have availed myself of the results he has obtained; this account is thus more perfect, although it cannot be considered as conclusive.

I have found in the literature of the Pteropoda eleven different specific names attributed to *Pneumonoderma*.

Among these eleven names there is one that belongs to a *Dexiobranchæa*—namely, *Pneumodermon ciliatum*, Gegenbaur, and among the ten others, there are—

First, names which are synonyms, as will be shown further on:—

1. *Pneumodermon audebardi*, Rang,² = *Pneumonoderma violaceum*, d'Orbigny.
2. *Ægle cucullata*, Oken,³ = *Pneumonoderma peroni*, Lamarck.
3. *Pneumodermis atlanticum*, Oken,⁴ = *Pneumonoderma violaceum*, d'Orbigny.
4. *Pneumodermon macrocotylum*, Boas,⁵ = *Pneumonoderma mediterraneum*, van Beneden.

Secondly, several names applied to species of which the characterisation is quite insufficient, and of which the type specimens have been lost. One is therefore obliged to eliminate them from the actual systematic nomenclature of *Pneumonoderma*:—

1. *Pneumodermon pellucidum*, Quoy and Gaimard.⁶
2. *Pneumodermon ruber*, Quoy and Gaimard.⁷

I shall, however, refer again to these two species.

The obscurity which surrounds the nomenclature of the genus *Pneumonoderma* results from the difficulty of finding distinctive characters between the different species, so that the descriptions which have been given of some forms might have been applied to others, which are nevertheless distinct. It may therefore be said that the real cause of this confusion is the fact that the zoologists who have undertaken the systematic classification of the Mollusca possess but little knowledge of the organisation of the animals that they describe, and therefore cannot appreciate which organs maintain constant characters throughout the whole genus, and which have characters that vary from one species to another. To convince oneself of this truth, one must compare the descriptions of Quoy and Gaimard, of Rang, and even of d'Orbigny and Dall, with those of Boas, and he will then understand the accuracy of this observation.

The first well-known species of the present genus was *Pneumonoderma peroni*, Lamarck, from the Indian Ocean.

¹ *Spolia atlantica*, pp. 152-154.

² *Histoire naturelle des Mollusques Ptéropodes*, pl. x. fig. 13.

³ *Lehrbuch der Zoologie*, Bd. i. p. 327 (*err. typ.*, 273).

⁴ *Loc. cit.*, p. 327.

⁵ *Spolia atlantica*, p. 152.

⁶ *Voyage de découvertes de l'Astrolabe*, Zoologie, t. ii. p. 390, pl. xxviii. fig. 29.

⁷ *Loc. cit.*, t. ii. p. 389, pl. xxviii. figs. 19-24.