Group V. SPIROSTREPTOIDAE.

Elongate vermiform Diplopods resembling the Iulodea and Spiroboloidea in general form, the segments being numerous and variable in number, cylindrical and compact, with coalesced sterna, and each, with exception of the anterior five or six and the last, bearing a pair of scent-pores. Mouth-parts normal, the stipites or lateral plates of the gnathochilarium well developed and widely separated proximally by the promentum, but considerably wider proximally than in the Spiroboloidea, the promentum being correspondingly smaller. Segments 1 to 3 with a single pair of legs; segment 4 apodous; segment 5 with two pairs of legs. In the male the seminal ducts open upon a double penis behind the legs of the second pair, and the copulatory apparatus is retractile within the seventh segment. It consists either of distinct coleopods and phallopods, as in the Spiroboloidea and Iulodea, or of a single pair of stout distally narrowed and biramous sclerites, the anterior ramus bearing the seminal duct.

So far as is at present known, the Central-American representatives of this group are referable to two families, the Spirostreptidæ and Nannolenidæ, which may be distinguished as follows:—

a. Median unpaired plate (promentum) of the gnathochilarium narrowed distally and continued forwards between the smaller anterior paired plates (lingual lobes), which are triangular, being broad in front and narrowed and divergent behind; the anterior portion of the promentum separated from the posterior larger part by a distinct transverse membranous line (the so-called suture); copulatory organs of the male consisting on each side of a large stout basal sclerite which distally divides into two branches, the posterior branch tipped with tactile setæ, the anterior bifid and partially membranous, bearing the seminal duct . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . NANNOLENIDÆ.

a'. Median unpaired plate (promentum) of the gnathochilarium only slightly narrowed distally and not continued forwards between the smaller anterior paired plates (lingual lobes), which are subquadrate and in contact almost throughout their length in the middle line; the promentum undivided; copulatory organs of the male consisting very distinctly of a long posterior limb, the phallopod, and of an anterior complicated bilaminate apparatus constituting the coleopod . . . . . . . . . SPIROSTREPTIDÆ.

Fam. SPIROSTREPTIDÆ.

Bibliographical research for the correct generic name for the Central-American species of Spirostreptidæ shows that the nomenclature of the Neotropical genera of this family is in a state of confusion, which has arisen partly from the assumption, only recently abandoned, that the presence of pores upon the fifth segment is a generic character, partly from the inadequacy of the descriptions and figures of supposed generic features published by Silvestri, and partly from the pardonable disregard of Silvestri's genera by Brölemann, whose work in other respects leaves little to be desired.