

name *uncinata*. This author showed that the phallopod of *R. adunca* has no coxal calcar, and thus differs from that organ as known in all the species modern authors have referred to *Leptodesmus*. There is no evidence, however, that Attems knew the male of the species he identified as *R. adunca*. The male was known to him in the case of the species he determined as *R. tarasca*. But all that I know of the distribution of species of Diplopods justifies the conclusion that the two species from Espirito Santo must be specifically different from the genuine *R. adunca* and *R. tarasca* from Mexico. If this be so, as is practically certain, they may also be generically different. At all events, it is proved that *R. adunca* does not belong to the genus *Leptodesmus*, and I do not think the evidence justifies the conclusion that *R. tarasca* is generically distinct from *R. adunca*. I have tentatively, therefore, kept them under the same generic heading, *Rhachidomorpha*, of which the type-species is *R. tarasca*, with *Microrhachis*, of which the type-species is *R. adunca*, as its synonym. Examination of the male-characters of *R. tarasca* alone can show whether this opinion is correct or whether *R. tarasca*, carrying with it the generic name *Rhachidomorpha*, belongs to the same category of species as *Leptodesmus* and differs generically from *R. adunca*. If this be so, the genus *Microrhachis* will have to be resuscitated in the section Rhachodesminæ.

The two known species may be distinguished as follows:—

- a. Keels very strongly elevated and corniform . . . . . *tarasca*.
- b. Keels only moderately elevated . . . . . *adunca*.

### 1. *Rhachidomorpha tarasca*.

*Polydesmus (Rhachidomorpha) tarasca*, Sauss. Mém. Soc. Phys. Genève, xv. p. 327, t. 4. fig. 24 (1860)<sup>1</sup>.

♂. Colour? Body slender, elongate, and smooth. Antennæ very long and slender. First tergal plate with its anterior border semicircularly arched; its keels strongly aliform, elevated, with posterior border concave, ending in a sharp backwardly-directed spine. Keels of 2nd and 3rd segments directed slightly forwards at the base, then strongly recurved; those of the following segments in the form of narrow wings, strongly elevated, terminated by a sharp backwardly-directed spine; marginal thickening narrow; the pores not far from the extremity of their spiniform processes; a small spiniform tooth near the anterior end of the outer side of the keels. The keel-bearing portion of all the segments with an arched groove extending across from the base of one keel to that of the other. Caudal process of anal tergal plate conical.

Length 21 millim., width?

Hab. MEXICO, Cordova<sup>1</sup>.

### 2. *Rhachidomorpha adunca*.

*Polydesmus (Rachidomorpha) uncinatus*, Humb. & Sauss. Rev. et Mag. Zool. (2) xxi. p. 152 (1869)<sup>1</sup>;

Miss. Sci. Mex., Myr. p. 38, t. 1. fig. 14 (1872)<sup>2</sup> (*uncinatus* preoccupied).

*Polydesmus (Rachidomorpha) aduncus*, Sauss. & Humb. Miss. Sci. Mex., Myr. p. 158 (1872)<sup>3</sup>.