New Species of Oriopsis and a New Record for Augeneriella cf. dubia Hartmann-Schröder, 1965 from Eastern Australia (Polychaeta: Sabellidae)

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ABSTRACT. Some species of Oriopsis found around the rocky shores of Sydney, Australia are described and a key to Australian species is provided. Four new species are described: Oriopsis bicoloris n.sp., O. brevicolaris n.sp., O. dentata n.sp. and O. mobilis n.sp. Augeneriella cf. dubia Hartmann-Schröder, previously known from Hawaii, is recorded from the Great Barrier Reef. The identification of A. cf. dubia is tentative due to poor type material. The definitions for both genera are discussed and emended.


The few records of the sabellid sub-family Fabricinae made in Australia prior to 1979 have been listed by Day & Hutchings (1979). Oriopsis michaelseni Banse, 1957 was described from Western Australia and additional new species have been described from Western Australia (O. busseltonensis Hartmann-Schröder, 1982) and South Australia (O. cincta Hartmann-Schröder, 1986 and O. denticollis Hartmann-Schröder, 1986). The two records of Oriopsis species found in eastern Australian waters, O. cf. michaelseni Banse, 1957 and O. paryula (Ehlers, 1913), are doubtful (see Banse, 1957). No records of fabriciin sabellids have been made from the Great Barrier Reef to date. Examination of rocky intertidal areas on the eastern Australian coast (New South Wales) has revealed four new species of Oriopsis. Augeneriella cf. dubia Hartmann-Schröder, 1965, previously known only from the type locality of Hawaii, is recorded and described from One Tree Reef, Great Barrier Reef.

Little use has been made of scanning electron microscopy (S.E.M.) in the taxonomy of small sabellids. Ben Eliahu (1975) and Wu (1984) have examined Oriopsis species with S.E.M. and in the following descriptions it is clear that this form of examination is invaluable with animals of such small size.