

MISCELLANEA

POLYZOA.

THE OCCURRENCE OF ENTOPROCTA IN INDIAN WATERS.—On the stems of specimens of the Hydroid genera *Bimeria* and *Tubularia* collected at Port Canning on March 10th, 1912, I find a minute entoproctous polyzoon that appears to be specifically identical with Busk's *Barentsia* (or *Ascopodaria*) *discreta*, a species originally found at Tristan da Cunha in 100 to 150 fathoms by the "Challenger" Expedition (Busk, *Zool. Rep. "Challenger,"* vol. xvii, part L (Polyzoa II), p. 44, pl. X, figs 6—12), but recently recorded from Ceylon by Miss L. Thornley, apparently from shallow water (Herdman's *Rep. Ceylon Pearl Fisheries*, part iv, p. 128). My specimens are much smaller than the type-specimens, the full-grown heads measuring only about 0.21 mm. in length and 0.18 mm. in transverse diameter, the same measurements as given by Busk being 0.5 and 0.4 mm. The length of the stalk and the proportions of the muscular bulb at its base vary considerably and the zoaria are colourless. Otherwise I can detect no divergence from Busk's original figures and description. Miss Thornley states that the specimens she examined were of a reddish colour. In view of the conditions under which the species was growing at Port Canning it is not surprising that it should be dwarfed, and I do not consider it advisable in the circumstances to give the phase a separate name. My specimens were found on Hydrozoa that grew on stones and logs partially embedded in dense mud at the edge of the river Mutlah. They were just uncovered by an unusually low tide. The water at the point at which they occurred contains in March about 25.46 *per mille* of saline residue.

Prof. K. Ramunni Menon has recently sent me a specimen of *Barentsia gracilis* (Sars) taken in Madras harbour. The species is common in Europe and has been recorded from the Pacific coast of N. America by Miss Robertson (*Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.* (3) II, p. 344) and from Australian waters by Kirkpatrick (*Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (6) II, p. 21, 1888).

The list of Entoprocta as yet known from Indian seas is a very short one, comprising, so far as I am aware, only three species:—

- Barentsia gracilis*. Madras harbour.
 ,, *discreta* { R. Mutlah, Port Canning, Gangetic
 { delta and Ceylon.
Loxosomatoides colonialis. Brackish ponds, Port Canning.

N. ANNANDALE.