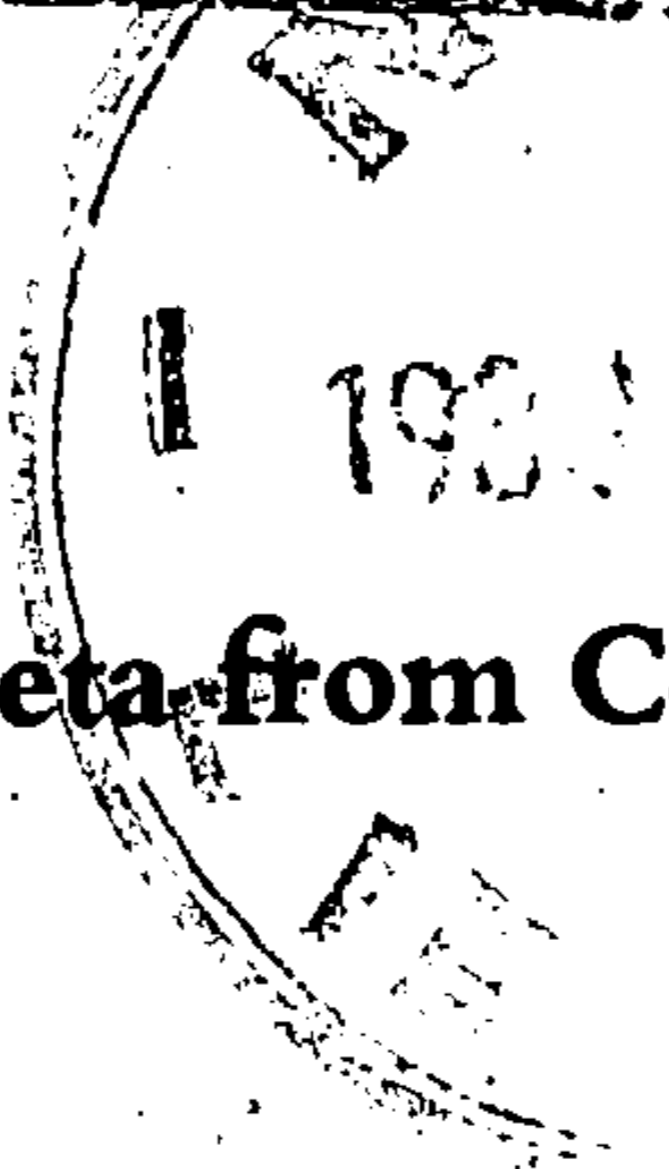


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A Systematic Study of Freshwater Oligochaeta from Ceylon

by

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(With five plates)

STEPHENSON (1923) in his monograph on the Oligochaeta listed 44 species and 5 varieties belonging to the Aeolosomatidae, Naididae and Tubificidae from the Indian subcontinent including Burma and Ceylon. Subsequent work has shown that, out of these, 40 species and 1 subspecies are valid. Later work (Stephenson, 1925, 1929, 1931; Aiyer, 1925, 1926, 1930; Cernovitov, 1942; Sperber, 1958; and Naidu, 1961-63, 1965) has added another 31 species. Of the valid species of the subcontinent, 6 species have been assigned to the Aeolosomatidae, 51 species to the Naididae and 14 species to the Tubificidae.

The only available knowledge of the annelidan fauna of Ceylon for both terrestrial and freshwater habitats has been due to the work of Stephenson (1923). Although our polychaete fauna is gradually being described only scattered information is available regarding our freshwater oligochaetes. The few species of freshwater oligochaetes that have been so far described or recorded from the island are :—

Family	Species	Locality	Author
Aeolosomatidae	* <i>Aeolosoma ternarium</i> Schmarda	Galle	Schmarda (1861)
Naididae	{	<i>Allonais paraguayensis</i>	Weerakoon & Samarasinghe (1958)
		<i>paraguayensis</i> (Mich.)	Stephenson (1913)
		<i>Aulophorus michaelsoni</i> (Steph.)	Schmarda (1861)
		<i>Aulophorus tonkinensis</i> (Vejd.)	Weerakoon & Samarasinghe (1958)
		<i>Dero digitata</i> (Muller)	Stephenson (1913)
		<i>Dero zeylanica</i> Steph.	Weerakoon & Samarasinghe (1958)
		<i>Pristina breviseta</i> (Bourne)	Weerakoon & Samarasinghe (1958)
		<i>Pristina minuta</i> (Steph.)	Weerakoon & Samarasinghe (1958)
		<i>Pristina proboscidia</i> Bedd.	Weerakoon & Samarasinghe (1958)
		<i>Branchiodrilus semperi</i> (Bourne)	not known