

FIG. 1. *Neoliga singhi* n.sp. A. Scolex; B. Hooks; C. Mature segment.

0.162 in length and 0.285–0.362 in breadth (anterior and posterior borders respectively). Testes 20 in number, round posterior and dorsal to ovary, measuring 0.181–0.191 in diameter. Cirrus pouch is cylindrical, elongated, curved, extends towards the anterior margin of the segment, measuring 0.135 in length and 0.027 in breadth. The vas deferens is coiled.

Ovary bilobed, compact, in posterior two-third region, measuring 0.162 in length and 0.066 in breadth. The vagina is a curved tube, anterior to cirrus pouch. Vagina measures 0.054 in length and 0.007 in breadth. Receptaculum seminis is of medium size, obliquely situated, ventral to cirrus pouch, measures 0.100 in length and 0.025 in breadth. Vitelline gland is posterior to ovary, compact, irregular in shape, measuring 0.184 in length and 0.027 in breadth. Genital atrium is well developed, measures 0.055 in length and 0.036 in breadth. Genital pores regularly alternate, at one-third from the anterior margin of the segment.

Neoliga singhi n.sp. differs from *N. diplacantha* Singh, 1952 in having 24 rostellar hooks of two types; mature segments broader than long; testes 20, round, posterior and dorsal to ovary; cirrus pouch cylindrical, elongated and curved; cirrus without spines; ovary bilobed but each lobe compact, receptaculum seminis of medium size and whole body covered with numerous minute spines (26 rostellar hooks, similar in shape and size; testes 18–22, lateral, posterior and dorsal to ovary; cirrus pouch with rose thorn-shaped spines at the distal end; ovary bilobed but each lobe with short, blunt acini and the receptaculum seminis broad in the middle and tapering at both the ends in *N. diplacantha*).

The name *N. singhi* is proposed in honour of Dr. Kunwar Suresh Singh, Head of Parasitology Division, I.V.R.I., Izzatnagar (U.P.).

Host .. *Apus affinis* Madrasz
Habitat .. Intestine
Locality .. Parbhani, Maharashtra,
India

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OCCURRENCE OF *SPATHOTEREDO* MOLL (BIVALVIA : TEREDINIDAE) IN INDIA

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TEN genera comprising twenty-eight species of shipworms have been recognised as occurring in India¹ and the pattern of their distribution is known²⁻⁴ indicating vast stretches of unexplored zones along our lengthy coastline. During the course of a recent survey of the timber destroying organisms in the backwater systems along the southwest coast of India, the occurrence of the genus *Spathoteredo* Moll which hitherto has not been recorded from India has been noticed.

One specimen was recovered from the trunk of *Cocos nucifera* submerged in shallow water at a stagnant inlet of the Ashtamudi backwaters on 30th January 1981. The locality is 0.5 km away from the barmouth opening into the Arabian Sea.

Spathoteredo Moll⁵ is recognised by pallet blades made of fused segments which are hardly distinguishable or very closely packed with a pustulose calcareous incrustation at the distal end. A dark band of periostracum encircles the blade at the mid portion of it and the pallet stalk extends through the blade.

Dimensions of the specimen are, total length 9.3 cm; shell length 6.5 mm, shell height 7.0 mm; pallet length 5.4 mm, blade length 3.3 mm, blade width 2.8 mm and stalk length 2.1 mm.

Specific diagnosis of the material as *Spathoteredo obtusa* (Sivickis)⁶ was made by virtue of the following characters. Pallet of the specimen spatulate (Figs. 1 a and b), blade rectangular consisting of a triangular basal portion and fused segments covered over with calcareous incrustation at the distal end. A dark brown band of periostracum of 0.85 mm encircles the blade dividing it into a distal region of 1.8 mm and proximal region of 0.65 mm in external view. Basal portion of the blade into which the pallet stalk extends is whitish and the distal portion darker than the basal portion is lighter than the periostracal band

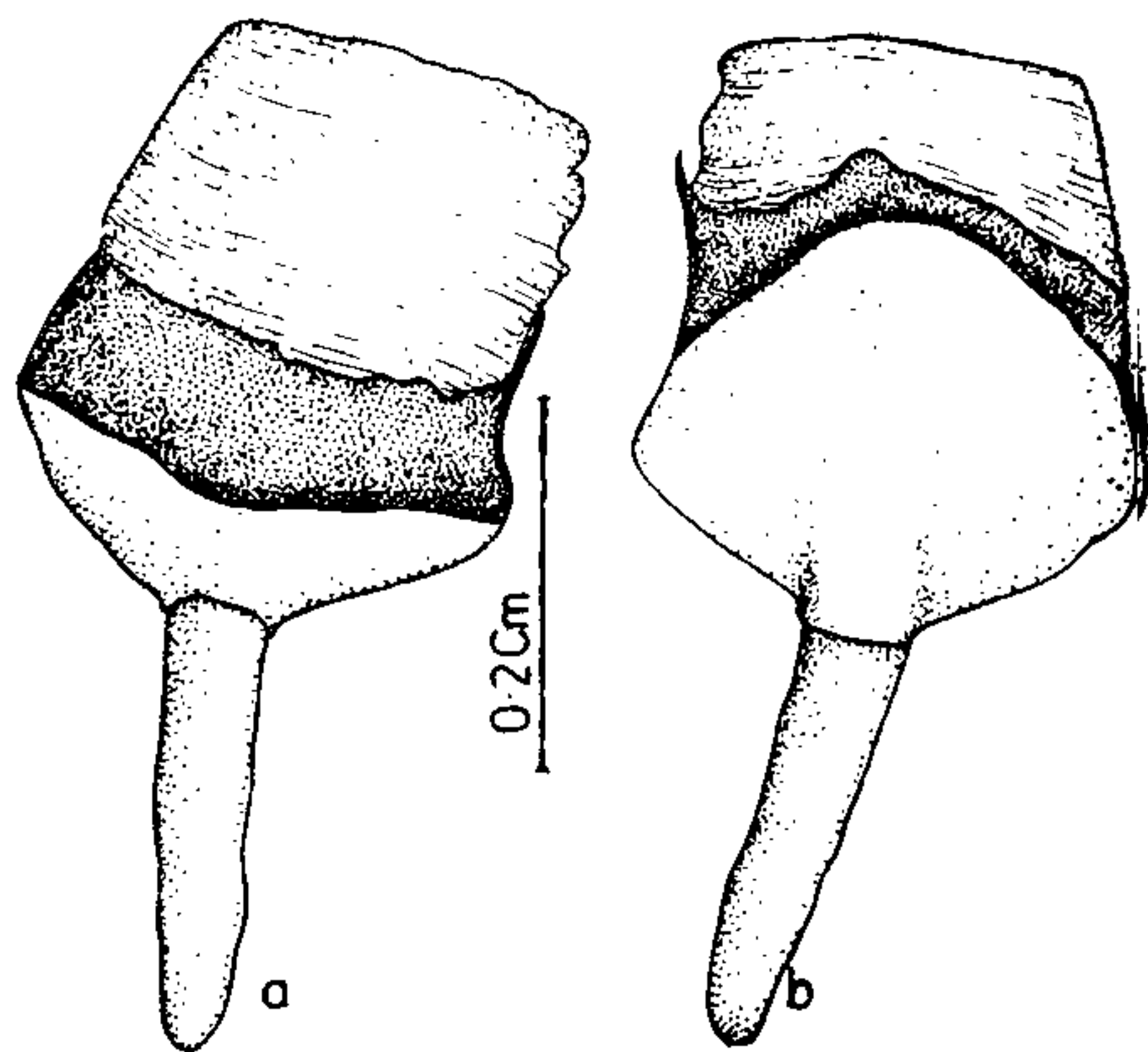


FIG. 1. Pallet of *Spathoteredo obtusa* (Sivickis). a. Outer view and b. Inner view.

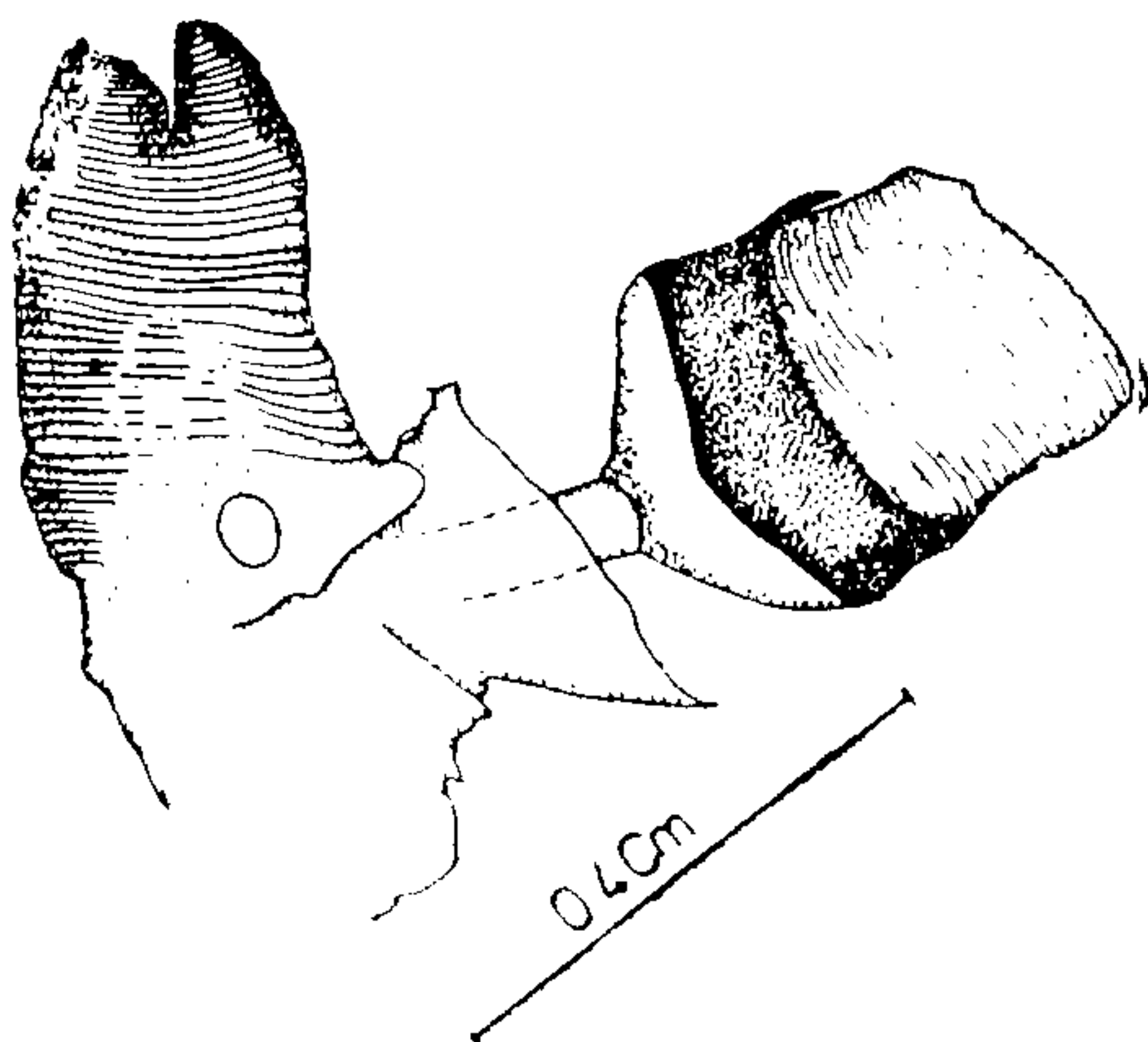


FIG. 2. Posterior end of *S. obtusa* showing the siphons.

and both can be clearly distinguished. Periostracum extends distally as a pointed awn from one side of the blade. In the inner view, periostracal band is narrower than that in outer view. The inhalent and exhalent siphons are short, almost of equal length and united except at their tips (Fig. 2). Free ends of both the siphons are dark brown in colour. Muscular collar at the base of siphonal tube and stalks of the pallets is well developed. The burrow is lined with a hard calcareous sheath at the posterior end and is non-adherent to the burrow. Thickness of the calcareous tube decreases towards the boring end of the burrow. Valves resemble those of the genus *Nausitora*.

Synonyms of *S. obtusa* include *Teredo variegata* Sivickis, *Teredo semoni* Moll, *Teredo murrayi* Moll, *Teredo bataviana* Moll and Roch, *Teredo palula* Roch and *Psiloteredo amboinensis* Take and Habe.

The species has earlier been reported from Molucca islands, Batavia, Christmas islands off Java, Philippine islands, Madagascar and Bismark Archipelago⁷.

Most of the earlier records of the species from the above mentioned regions seem to be from fully marine localities and the present record of its occurrence in a brackish water locality is, therefore, of interest. With this record, the number of teredinid genera occurring in the Indian waters increases to eleven and the number of species to twenty-nine.

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