STUDIES IN THE BIOLOGY OF AUSTRALIAN BIRKINUEDS.

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I GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This thesis is divided into two sections, one taxonomic and the other physiological. Part A is concerned with all the known Australian sipunculids and contains keys to the genus and species. Part B deals with (1) the respiratory metabolism, (2) the products of the metabolism of nitrogenous compounds, and (3) the digestive system and the nutrition of the Australian species *Pneustobosca spathulosa* Rdn. The work was begun in 1952 and finished in 1957.