

THE OCCURRENCE OF *OPISTOMUM PALLIDIUM* O. SCHM. IN THE UNITED STATES

WARD and Whipple (18), in their "Fresh-water Biology," indicated that the genus *Opisthomum* of the family *Dalyellidae* was not found in the United States. Von Graff (11) records new species of American *Dalyellia* but has not recorded *Opisthomum*. Higley (18) did not find *Opisthomum* among the rhabdocoeles of the Mississippi Valley. I have not been able to find any later reference to the *Dalyellidae* of the United States. It seems worth while, therefore, to record that *Opisthomum* has been found in the vicinity of the University of Virginia. I have found four or five specimens in each of three collections made early in the spring of 1927. About the last of May the specimens were abundant in all collections made.

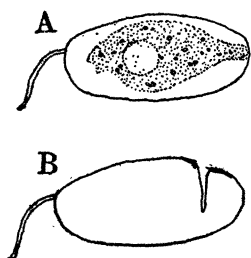


FIG. 1. A, camera lucida sketch of freshly laid egg. The egg was fixed to substratum by stalk shown at left end of shell; B, empty egg shell showing cleft through which young specimen had emerged. $\times 100$.

All these specimens closely corresponded with Von Graff's (1882) description of the tribe *Opistomini*, a translation of which follows:

Dalyellidae with mouth and sexual opening in last third of body. The pharynx, arising from ventral surface of the intestine, is a long cylindrical tube with point directed backward. Two main branches of the excretory organ. A single median renal pore opening between mouth and genital pore. Vitellaria are not branched. Without bursa copulatrix. Independent uterus present. Rhabdites lacking. Chitinous structures of male copulatory organ furnished with numerous small needles of ductus ejaculatorum. One genus with character of tribe *Opisthomum* (O. Schmidt). One certain species four and one half millimeters long from Europe; one uncertain species one and one half millimeters long from Australia.

The Australian species has eye-spots. My specimen lacked eye-spots. Moreover, it corresponded in all details with Von Graff's description of the species *Opisthomum pallidum* (O. Schmidt). The specimens found in this locality represent this species.

In addition to recording this genus for the American fauna I am able to record that the specimens laid eggs in the laboratory aquarium during the latter part

of April, 1927. The specimens would also lay eggs in depression slides whether isolated or in groups as great as five individuals to a depression. The egg was in each case deposited in the shallow marginal water of the depression slide. Each egg was fixed to the substratum by means of a slender curved stalk. Further, the eggs, thus deposited in depression slides, would develop. Data were kept for one of these eggs. April 23, 1927, two eggs were laid. Developmental changes were observed daily until, on April 28, a small *Opisthomum* had left the egg through a sub-terminal cleft (Fig. 1-B). No attempt was made to rear the young individuals.

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THE WORD CARIBOU

STUDIES relating to the historical origin of words may be quite as interesting and oftentimes more profitable than monographic reviews dealing in wearisome detail with the phyletic development of some organism concerning which the most of us know little and care less. Very recently in reading the journal of that intrepid explorer, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, describing a canoe voyage from Lake Athabasca to the Arctic Ocean down the great river now bearing his name¹ I was impressed by a paragraph and the possible significance it might have in throwing light upon the origin of the word "caribou." This is perfunctorily recorded in various dictionaries as being either of French Canadian² or of Indian³ origin without further comment, although some editions of Webster state that it is derived from the Indian word meaning "pawer" without noting the specific word.

Mackenzie, while making the trip in 1787, writes in his journal as follows (p. 209): "We saw some rein-deer on one of the islands (Great Slave Lake) and our hunters killed five and two smaller ones . . . This island was accordingly named Isle de Carreboeuf." While it is not clear from the context as to the size a reindeer must attain before possessing a numerical value, the implication that "caribou" is derived from *carre* signifying four, and *boeuf* indicating bovine or ox, is fully apparent and seems to have escaped the attention of lexicographers. In the reindeer horns are possessed by both sexes and the number four may well refer to the fact that each horn has a large horizontal as well as perpendicular prong, so that there are four principal prongs. Some editions of Webster give "carribou" as a variant spelling.

¹ "Voyages from Montreal through the Countries of North America," London, 1801, Allerton edition.

² Webster's Dictionary—some editions; Standard Dictionary; Lettré, Dictionnaire Langue Française.

³ Murray, New English Dictionary; Webster's Dictionary; Century Dictionary; Hatzfeld, Dictionnaire Langue Française.