

the postulate that since all the amino acids which are integral components of living tissue can be justly considered as essential thereto, and hence essential to its production or growth, make it seem advisable to discontinue the practice of attributing general growth dispensability or indispensability to amino acids on the sole basis of weight changes in feeding experiments with rats. Otherwise interpretation is going beyond the limits set by restriction inherent in the method of investigation.

In fact, there is rarely any need to use the word growth in these studies at all. Weight increase or decrease is all that is sufficient and necessary to use in this connection, for this is all that is usually observed. Any other implication is not only inexact—it is unscientific.

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WOLFFIA IN FLOWER

IN SCIENCE for October 1, Henry C. Gilbert remarks, "This is the first report of *Wolffia* in flower in the State of Minnesota, and may be the first report of this matter for the United States."

I quote the following from the Lake Maxinkuckee Report, page 258: "It (*Wolffia columbiana*) was noticed in blossom several times. On October 9, 1900, the plants were in blossom quite freely. We got a tubful in which many were in bloom. They were found in flower also on October 24, of the same year. At Put-in-Bay, Lake Erie, some were noted in blossom about the 19th of July (1908)."

What it would be more desirable to see would be blossoms of the minute duckweed *Wolffiella floridana* (J. D. Thompson), as no flowers nor fruit of the entire genus *Wolffiella* are known. The appropriateness of the name *Wolffiella*, implying a minuteness even greater than that of *Wolffia*, famous as the smallest flowering plant, raises the question of relative size of *Wolffia columbiana* or *punctata* and *Wolffiella floridana*. On account of its shape *Wolffiella floridana* presents more surface, but perhaps less material than *Wolffia*, so that it rivals *Wolffia* in being the most minute phanerogam, not to say "flowering plant."

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MORE FRESH-WATER MEDUSAE

ANOTHER occurrence of the fresh-water medusae, probably *Craspedacusta ryderi*, is in Sandy Lake, at Stoneboro, Pennsylvania. This medusa is of fair size, measuring one and one-half cm in diameter, and was found a year ago in very large numbers in this lake by Mr. John Hines, teacher of biology in Stoneboro High School. On its reappearance a few days ago, it was called to our attention, and is now being studied. It is not in as great abundance as last year, but numerous specimens have been collected.

We hope to add to the knowledge of this form, as we have seen several interesting features apparently not previously described.

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BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

THE new acting editor of *Biological Abstracts*, John E. Flynn, and a special Committee on Arrangements, appointed by the Board of Trustees of *Biological Abstracts*, announce the launching of a new plan which insures prompt publication of abstracts and indexes, economy of operation and reorganization of income on a sound basis.

EDITORIAL PLANS

Careful study has been given to methods of speeding up the publication of abstracts, and the following procedures, now to be adopted by the *Abstracts* office, will be of interest to biologists and others:

Abstracting plan. With the aid of biologists and editors of scientific journals, the author-to-editor abstract plan is to be extended. This insures the prompt receipt of abstracts. Payments will be made to col-

laborators handling entire journals, after the plan of *Chemical Abstracts*. This will make possible an understanding between the abstractors and the editorial office as to how much time can be allowed for abstracting and still have the abstracts appear on schedule.

Prompt abstracts. Abstracts from cooperating journals will appear approximately eight weeks after the original articles. Abstracts from non-cooperating journals (prepared by paid collaborators) are scheduled to appear about twelve weeks after the original articles.

Prompt indexes. The acting editor has committed his organization to an April-May appearance of the index for the 1938 and subsequent volumes prepared under his direction.

Journals covered. There will appear from time to time a stated list of journals which are being abstracted so that biologists may know just what is being covered. The names of journals cooperating under