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NOTES ON SOME LEECHES (HIRUDINEA)
FROM
THE YUKON TERRITORY, CANADA,
AND ALASKA

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A six weeks' trip into Northwestern Canada and Alaska over the Alaska Highway during the summer of 1954 afforded the author an opportunity of extending his study of leeches into virgin territory. Samplings were made in a number of lakes and streams along the highway, which extends for a distance of some 1,500 miles from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, Alaska. No leeches were found in a number of places, and a larger number of streams and lakes, which undoubtedly would have been productive, had to be bypassed because of lack of time or inclement weather.

The leeches were relaxed and killed, fixed, and preserved as soon as they were collected. Since returning, the material has been studied and identifications which were in doubt have been verified by Dr. M. C. Meyer, University of Maine, who has made extensive studies of leeches in both Canada and the United States. While no new species were discovered on this trip, the geographical distribution of all were extended. Both Canadian and Alaskan leech faunas are poorly represented in the literature. There are no previous records from the Yukon Territory. As for the remainder of Canada, the number of records runs from a minimum of one for the Province of Manitoba and a maximum of sixteen for the Province of Nova Scotia. At present there are 35 species known to occur in Canada. These include five species which were reported for the first time in 1954 (Meyer and Moore, 1954). Records for Alaska include two from Kodiak Island, and one for Alaska proper (Moore and Meyer, 1951).

The leeches collected on this trip include the following species:
Theromyzon rude, Baird, 1869.

Synonym: *Glossiphonia rudis*, Baird, 1869.

Recorded distribution: Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territory; Whitewater Lake, Manitoba; and Murray Lake, Saskatchewan.

Remarks: This is the first record for this species in Alaska.

Three specimens were collected from sunken logs in water about a foot deep in a small lake (which so far as is known has no name) near Northway, Alaska. Meyer and Moore, 1954, have given a good description of this leech.

Erpobdella punctata, Leidy, 1870.

Synonyms:

Nepheleis lateralis, Verrill, 1871; Nicholson, 1873.

Herpobdella punctata, Meyer, 1937; Richardson, 1942.

Recorded distribution: Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Ontario, Canada; Kodiak Island, Alaska.

Remarks: This is the first record of this leech from the Yukon Territory. Two specimens were collected from the cooler waters leading from Laird Hot Springs, Yukon, August, 1954.

Glossiphonia camplanata mullissimi, Moore, 1898.

Synonym: *Glossiphonia mullissimi*, Moore, 1898.

Recorded distribution: Thumb Lake, Kodiak Island, Alaska.

Remarks: This is the first record of this leech for Alaska proper. Several specimens were collected from the underside of a boat in a small lake near Northway, Alaska in August, 1954.

Nephelopsis obscura, Verrill, 1872.

Reported distribution: There are records for this leech from all parts of Canada except Nova Scotia and Yukon.

Remarks: This is the first record for this leech in both the Yukon and Alaska. Several specimens were taken from a small lake near Northway, Alaska, and from the cooler waters leading from Laird Hot Springs, Yukon.

Haemopsis marmoratis, Say, 1824.

Synonyms:

Hirudo marmoratis, Say, 1824.

Aulastomum lucustre, Leidy, 1868.

Haemopsis Marmoratis, Moore, 1901.

Recorded distribution: All parts of Canada except the Yukon Territory.

Remarks: This is the first record for the Yukon Territory. One specimen was taken from the cooler waters leading from Laird Hot Springs, Yukon, in August, 1954.

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