

in Bengal show that whereas *L. moluccanus* is essentially a marine species, occurring on sandy and muddy bottoms from the tide-line to a depth of 20 fathoms, *L. rotundicauda* is mainly if not entirely estuarine. It ascends the river Hughli at least as far as Calcutta, that is to say, for a distance of about 90 miles from the open sea, and can live in water that is practically fresh. On the coast of Bengal *L. moluccanus* breeds at the end of the cold weather, *i.e.*, in March. The eggs, which are not very numerous, have a green colour and measure about 3 mm. in diameter, are carried on the ventral surface of the abdominal appendages, to which they adhere lightly. Further information as regards the habits of the Indian *Limuli* would be of interest.

N. ANNANDALE.

CRUSTACEA.

THE RATE OF GROWTH IN *Conchoderma* AND *Lepas*.—Dr. J. T. Jenkins has given me the information on which the following note is based; it is of interest as illustrating the relative rate of growth in two species of barnacles. A clean buoy was placed in the sea off the coast of Ganjam, on February 23rd, 1909, by the Fisheries Steamer "Golden Crown," and was lifted on March 3rd. Numerous specimens of *Lepas anserifera* and *Conchoderma virgatum* var. *hunteri* were found adhering to it. Those of the former species were all small, the largest having a capitulum 8 mm. long, whereas it is usually about 20 mm. long in fully grown examples of the species from the Bay of Bengal. The specimens of *C. virgatum* var. *hunteri* were, however, much larger, and appeared to be already adult. The capitulum of the largest measured 15 mm. in length. This individual is actually the largest specimen of the variety I have seen, although it had reached this size in eight days from that on which the larva probably settled. It is of interest to note, therefore, that the rate of growth in *C. virgatum* var. *hunteri* is considerably greater even than it is in the common *L. anserifera*. It may be noted that whereas the latter species is usually found attached to inanimate objects, *C. virgatum* var. *hunteri* is frequently taken on the skin of turtles and sea-snakes.

N. ANNANDALE.

POLYZOA.

LARGE COLONIES OF *Hislopia lacustris*.—In volume i (page 177) of the *Records of the Indian Museum*, I described the two forms of colonies of *Hislopia* that I had found in the United Provinces (Bulandshahr). Of these, one was a more or less linear arrangement of the zoecia on leaves and twigs, and the other, and more common, form was an encrusting sheath on the outer surface of the shells of *Paludina*. During the present "rains" (July 1908) I have found many examples of what may be considered a much exaggerated extension of the latter form. These colonies

have been on bricks, tiles and other submerged objects. The largest colony that I have seen so far was on a tile; one side of the tile was exposed above the mud of the bottom of the tank, and its area measured about 120 square inches: the entire surface was almost completely covered by a continuous growth of *Hislopia*. Another large colony was on a piece of bark which measured 7 inches by 3 inches: both sides were practically everywhere covered by *Hislopia*.

These specimens suggest that, within reasonable limits, the size a colony may attain is only determined by that of the object on which it grows.

In these giant colonies the zoecia are somewhat compressed: the typical oval shape is in a measure lost, and they become somewhat polygonal or circular and are of comparatively small size.

The rainy season is evidently the time at which the growth of *Hislopia* is at its maximum. The particular tank from which I have obtained most of my specimens has been kept full of water all through the hot weather; the exuberant growth of *Hislopia* during the "rains" cannot, therefore, in this case be attributed to a larger area being available at this season.

Now as usual almost every *Paludina* in the tank, except quite small ones, is covered with *Hislopia*, and in this situation the zoecia retain their oval form.

H. J. WALTON.

COELENTERATES.

Branchiocerianthus imperator VON DER KÜSTE VON OMAN UND BALUCHISTAN.—Wie aus einer kurzen Notiz von R. E. Lloyd (s. *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, vol. i, p. 1-2, 1907) bekannt ist, wurde der bilateral symmetrische *Branchiocerianthus imperator* im Jahre 1906 durch den "Investigator" (1) an der Küste von Oman, nahe dem östlichsten Punkt Arabiens unter $21^{\circ} 49' 50''$ N. Lat. und $59^{\circ} 48' 0''$ E. Long., und (2) an der Küste von Baluchistan unter $24^{\circ} 45' 0''$ N. Lat. und $63^{\circ} 50' 15''$ E. Long. aus 900 Meter (492 Fath.), resp. 995 Meter (544 Fath.) gedredgt. Durch die grosse Liebenswürdigkeit von Dr. Annandale in Calcutta ist es mir möglich gewesen, beiderlei Material zu untersuchen.

Dies Material hat deshalb ein besonderes Interesse, weil hier zum ersten Male ganz jugendliche Exemplare von *Branchiocerianthus* vorliegen, und weil diese von den bisherigen Fundorten (Japan, Nördl. Pacific, Golf von Panama und Ostafrika) so entfernte Lokalität über die geographische Verbreitung des Genus ganz neue Perspektiven eröffnet. Leider sind sämtliche Exemplare sehr schlecht erhalten, offenbar auch nur in starkem Alkohol conserviert, sodass sie stark geschrumpft und sehr hart und brüchig geworden sind. Das Material besteht aus 10 Exemplaren von Baluchistan, deren Grösse zwischen 60 und 120 mm. schwankt, und 1 Exemplar