

and it may then be seen that the entering water must bathe the four great, flat gills as it passes downwards towards the mouth. These gills subserve the same function as do those of fishes, for in them the blood of the animal receives its needful oxygen and gives off its useless gases. Near the extreme anterior (though lower) end, guarded by four long ear-like flaps, is the minute mouth, and into it are guided by the flaps the minute animals, plants and crustacea upon which it feeds. The water, now robbed of its oxygen and food materials, passes along the back or hinge side, taking up useless matters given off by the animal and passes out through the other tube. These tubes have the power of great extension, so that when their owner is safe deep in its burrow, it can push them up to the surface and get clear, pure water. At low water, when the flats are exposed, it retains water enough to last until the tide covers it again, when, doubtless hungry enough, it keeps up an active in and out circulation of water. If incautious enough to come to the surface, it is likely to be snapped up by some fish, for many of this tribe dearly love the Clam. It also lives under many fathoms of water, where its habits are probably the same. Its time of reproduction has not been studied carefully in our waters, but probably does not differ greatly from that of the same species farther south. Mr. Ryder (see paper referred to below) finds that they give out their eggs from the tenth of September to the middle of October. The young are without shells and can swim freely about for a time, a provision to allow them to be removed from the vicinity of their parents, and so to prevent overcrowding. They soon settle to a sand or mud bottom and as they develop the shell, burrow beneath the surface. They grow to a length of from one to two inches in seven months, these lengths being exclusive of the tubes. The artificial raising of the young is considered very difficult, though they may be transplanted readily to new beds.

ECONOMICS. This species has two very important uses—as human food and as bait in the fisheries. For the latter purpose it is very extensively used in Acadia, and also in the United States. Exact statistics of the quantity used for bait alone are wanting in the latter country, and the Dominion Fishery Returns probably give but an imperfect idea of the quantity used in the former. Nova Scotia is the only one of the Maritime Provinces which gives figures in the reports, which for the years from 1884 to 1887 are as follows:

	1884	750 barrels @ \$7 =	\$5,250	
	1885	1136 “ 5	5,680	
	1886	970 “ 5	4,850 +	(\$100 worth used)
7	1887	475 “ 7	3,325	as food.