

The Rotatoria of the Canadian Arctic Expedition, 1913-1918.

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When the Canadian Arctic Expedition was organized with Mr. James Murray as oceanographer and marine biologist, all students of the rotifers looked forward to a considerable increase of our knowledge of the group and hoped for a repetition of his success in the Antarctic as biologist of the Shackleton Expedition. These expectations were frustrated through his death following the loss of the *Karluq* and the career of an enthusiastic naturalist and tireless worker was brought to an untimely end. No other member of the expedition was able to make special collections of rotifers, but the general plankton collections made by the marine biologist of the southern party, Mr. Frits Johansen, contained a considerable number of rotifers, which were assigned to the writer for a report. Some collections made by Mr. J. M. Jessup while serving on the Alaskan Boundary Survey have been included, as they belong to the same faunal area and add somewhat to our scanty knowledge of the distribution of the Rotatoria in the Arctic. Virtually all that we know on this subject is to be found in Bergendal's *Zur Rotatorienfauna Grönlands* (1892), and the value of this is somewhat minimized by his unfamiliarity with the group prior to his visit to Greenland.

While the species reported on here are not very numerous, 64 in all, they furnish additional, even if superfluous, evidence that climate is not directly a factor in rotifer distribution. Four new species are described, among which a pelagic *Synchaeta* is of special interest, as it is an addition to the extremely small number of rotifers known to exist in the open ocean in water of normal salinity. The total absence of the genus *Brachionus*, so abundant elsewhere, is noteworthy; Bergendal mentions two species of this genus from Greenland, but his notes on these forms make it somewhat doubtful whether he really found any Brachionoids.

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ORDER PLOIMA.

FAMILY NOTOMMATIDÆ.

Notommata copeus Ehrenberg.

A few specimens of this species were collected by Jessup in lakes on Old Crow river flats, 55 miles north of New Rampart House, on July 10, 1911.

Notommata cyrtopus Gosse.

Several specimens occurred in a collection from a pond near New Rampart House, at the International Boundary and Porcupine river, made by Jessup on June 12, 1911.

Proales sordida Gosse.

A few specimens in a collection made by Johansen among mosses and algae from a pond at Chantry island, Bernard harbour, Polkhu and Union strait, on June 17, 1916.