

MOLLUSCA.

CALMAR, LOLIGO.

English—*Squid*.

Of the class of *Mollusca*, of the order of *Cephalopoda* *Cryplodibranchi*, of the family of *Acetabuliferes* *Decapoda*.

This Mollusk, which has no shell, called in French *Encornet*, on account of its form which resembles an ancient cornet, and *Squid*, on account of a dark liquid matter which it emits when pursued, by means of a particular apparatus which it possesses, and sometimes also when the fishermen wish to take it; is from 4 to 8 inches long.

Its body is cylindrical, in the form of a bag, and terminated at the extremity by fins in the shape of wings. Its head is provided with 10 arms (hence the name of *Decapoda*) from 5 to 6 inches long; these are armed with small cups, two of which are tentacular, and two sessile. The colour of its body is brown, spotted with white. These mollusks are almost gelatinous, and have, instead of a back bone, a thin blade, transparent and horny, which extends from head to tail.

It is said that they are very greedy, and they feed on small fry and other mollusks. During summer and fall, they are seen on the coast of Gaspé in immense shoals. Although good to eat, our fishermen only take them for baiting their cod-lines by means of a small fishing instrument which they call *turlutte*. It is a cylinder of polished white metal, covered with a coating of vermilion, the upper end being attached to the line and the lower end covered with small hooks.

By moving this line up and down in the water during the night (as the squid only comes towards shore and only bites at night) they are drawn by the bright colour of the metal, and they are of course caught by the hooks fastened to the *turlutte*. These mollusks swim backwards very rapidly. They approach the shore to spawn, and then retire to the deep sea.

These curious animals are very common on our North American shores, and in Europe.

OSTREA.

English—*Oyster*.

Of the class of *Mollusca* *Acephala* *Lamellibranchia*, of the order of *Ostracea*, of the genus *Ostrea*.

There is certainly no mollusk better known in Canada than the *Oyster*, which is brought to us from the provinces of New Brunswick, Prince-Edward Island, and sometimes Nova-Scotia.

There were none in Canada until I planted an artificial bed in the Basin of Gaspé, three years ago; from the result of the examination I have made of it during the past two years, I am certain that it is in a fair way of succeeding.

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