

found in Scottish or Irish waters. From New England and the basin of the St. John River, New Brunswick, it extends through the Great Lakes and more northern waters to the Manitoba and Athabaska lakes and rivers, while specimens have been procured in the Okanagan and Columbia river regions in British Columbia. Drs. Jordan and Evermann speak of it as abundant in the north as far as Bering Straits and the Arctic Seas, but rare in the Ohio and Upper Mississippi. A number of specimens are preserved in the Ottawa Fisheries Museum, some being local, *e.g.*, Lake des Chene, Ragged Lake, Algonquin Park, Healy's Falls, and Rock Lake, Haliburton Co., Ont., and one specimen sent from Swan River, near Vernon, B.C. As a rule it is regarded as a pest, and fishermen are of opinion that it is a great destroyer of the spawn and young of valuable fishes; but its feeding habits require accurate investigation.

As the cod and most of the *Gadidae*, so far as known, produce eggs, which, as Dr. A. S. Packard states, "rise to the surface of the water, on which they float," it has long interested naturalists to know of what character are the eggs of the burbot, the only fresh-water member of the family. If, as seems practically certain, the burbot is a species of the cod family which has changed its habits and become a non-marine form, it was highly interesting to ascertain whether its eggs retained the characteristics of its ocean-inhabiting relations or not. Fish authorities and embryologists have long been on the look out for the eggs of the burbot for that reason. The minute delicate glassy transparent globes, floating lightly, like invisible soap-bubbles near the sea's surface, are called pelagic or buoyant eggs; and the eggs of the cod, haddock, pollock, whiting, hake, marine ling, and other *Gadidae*, are typically pelagic. Could it be that a species of that family, permanently resorting to fresh water, would have retained that interesting type of egg, or has the character of the egg changed with the change of the habitat of the fish?

Thirty years ago a Belgian investigator, Dr. C. Van Bambeke, described the egg of the fresh-water ling, inhabiting rivers and lakes in Europe,* but he never secured them after being deposited

* Mém. Couronn. l'Acad. Roy. de Belgique, tome XL. 1876.