

STEPHANOCEROS—A BEAUTIFUL ROTIFER RECORDED AT OTTAWA.

By WALTER S. ODELL, Esquire.

I am not aware that the species of Rotifer *Stephanoceros Eichornii* has been found in this locality, if so it has not been described in the "Naturalist." Dr. A. C. Stokes, who is perhaps the best authority on Infusoria in America, says it "does not seem to be common." It has never been my good fortune to find it till it appeared in my aquarium this winter, on a leaf of Ceratophyllum. Three specimens have since appeared in the same. This is one of the most beautiful living microscopic objects found in fresh water, and is barely visible to the eye, being 1.82 mm. long, .212 mm. wide. This rotifer unlike the common forms, lacks the wheel-like cilia surrounding the rim of the head, but instead, five long elliptical arms arranged equidistantly on the head, are held aloft like graceful plumes. These, thicker at the base, are beautifully curved and extended, while the rotifer is feeding, and the tips all point inwards to a common centre. Each arm is bordered by a row of long hairs or cilia springing from the sides and curved outwards and upwards, with inner rows of shorter cilia, forming a firm cage for holding any unlucky infusorian that wanders in. I have seen a Paramecium passing through this cage several times without being secured. When touching the mouth at the base of the arms, it was suddenly drawn, in and in few seconds the creature was transformed into a shapeless mass. The rotifer then straightened the arms till they appeared as a round bundle of erect plumes, and gradually retracted into its case, first withdrawing the head and then the bundle of plumes till it was entirely enclosed. This hyaline case is hollow, tubular, faintly ringed and about four times as long as broad, rounded at the top, and constricted so as to enclose the animal tightly as if in the mouth of a sac. The body is pyriform, the lower part gradually tapering to an attenuated foot. The mouth at the base of the arms is ciliated and leads through a short passage to the mastax or jaws. No eyes were present, and I would therefore conclude