

glass in order to force fluid through the pores, or to squeeze the yolk-ball out of its central position ; but neither experiment succeeded, and the capsule repeatedly burst. The yolk poured out as a granular fluid, orange or ochre in tint by transmitted light, and destitute of the large spherules, which Claparède described in his mites' ova. Thus the capsule does not appear to be minutely perforated and no space seems to exist inside the shell, or, if it exist, it must be filled by some dense clear substance of which I saw no indication in ruptured eggs. I think that no space exists, and that the apparent space, around the central yolk-ball, is due to the great thickness of the external capsule. Claparède, I may add, specially refers to a space filled with clear fluid, which he considered had entered through the shell from the surrounding water.

To summarise these points, it may be said that the ovum of *Hydrachna* consists of an opaque globular vitellus, bright red in colour, consisting of minute yolk granules and germinal protoplasm; surrounding this ball is a thin skin or pellicle, and enclosing the whole is a thick horny chorion or shell, dotted all over with external granular projections, but whether or not pierced by radial canals, or pores, is uncertain. Embryonic development appears to be slow, and I cannot in this note give any details, but, like all the spider and mite class, there is no true larval metamorphosis, the newly hatched young resembling, in all essential features, the adult, save for the possession of six instead of eight legs. I have constantly found one of the specimens of *Hydrachna* ensconced near the masses of eggs, as though keeping watch over them. Many spiders show parental care, but I could not decide whether *Hydrachna* exhibited such guardianship or whether the scarlet eggs proved attractive merely on account of their bright colour. The body of *Hydrachna*, about the size of a large pellet, is of a rude oval form, the integument is smooth, soft, and deeply creased with irregular folds. Owing to its ceaselessly active movements, the animal is difficult to study in life, the long attenuated snout being protruded and withdrawn, and the whole body changing shape as though it were a bag of soft jelly. The eight legs (not six as in insects) have a thick fringe of hairs on the