

In a common wooden box the moss will retain its dampness so as not to require wetting for several days. And indeed caution is requisite when it is so sprinkled, that the temperature of the fresh water be not lower than that of the moss. Moreover, it is only necessary to sprinkle the topmost layer of the moss, as the moisture will gradually percolate through the contents of the box. Neither should too much water be sprinkled on at one time, lest the ova at the bottom of the box should be immersed. To obviate this contingency, it is best to turn the box over once at least in the course of the day.

In packing the box, the bottom should first be evenly covered with a thick layer of the moss, which should be previously washed quite clean. On this a layer of eggs should be evenly spread, then should come a thinner layer of moss than before, and so on, alternate layers of eggs and moss till the box is nearly full. On the top of all, a layer of moss of the same thickness as the first should be laid ; so that when the lid is fastened down, the whole will form a compact mass, and all shifting of the contents be rendered impossible. The elasticity of the moss will prevent the slightest danger from pressure accruing to the ova. If the weather is extremely severe, the box should be protected. It may be remarked, that ova should not be transported till the eyes of the embryo are visible.

A few precautions are necessary on unpacking such a box containing ova. The temperature of the box, and of the water in the hatching-case, must be compared with a thermometer. Supposing that of the former to be the greater, the moss should be gradually sprinkled with water from the latter till they are both equal. Great care must be taken not to hurry this operation.

The contents of the box should then be emptied into a good-sized tub half filled with water of *the same temperature as that in the hatching-case*. By gently moving the hand about among the moss, the ova will sink to the bottom, and the moss remain floating on the surface. The water should now be drained off, and the ova at once deposited in the hatching-boxes.

Should the water in the hatching-boxes, however, be of a higher temperature than the moss in which the ova were conveyed, these can be at once removed into the hatching-cases after they have been detached from the moss as above described.