to the Nematoidea or thread worms by its alimentary canal, and in the nature of its secreting glands to the larva (Cercaria) of Trematodes." It enters the body of a water-snail, such as *Lymnæa* or *Planorbis*, but has also been found in the frog, fishes, aquatic insect larvæ, and in these it becomes encysted, or encased in a hard capsule. A second form of *Gordius* larva, more elongated and without head-armature, has been described in the body cavity, outside the intestine, of *Dytiscus*, the large water-beetle, *Carabus*, spiders, certain fishes and amphibians; and it was observed to move freely amongst the internal organs of its host. Later it loses its larval features and distinctively ento-parasitic habits, and takes on the form and free life of the adult. The larval life has been stated to last five or six months, at the end of which time it doubles its length, loses its spines, becomes swollen and soft: but on attaining a length of two inches the skin hardens, and the dark brown or black color is assumed.

If naturalists still disagreee in their descriptions of the minute structure and anatomy of *Gordius*, and if there is some inconsistency in the existing accounts of its larval development and adult habits, it might be anticipated that its zoological position had been decided beyond dispute. But this is not so. It has been usual to group the Gordiidæ, Mermidæ, and Spherularidæ, in the order Gordiacea, alongside the order Nematoda, in the class Nematelmia; others place them amongst the thread-worms or Nematodes with which they agree in many important particulars; but other authorities remove them altogether, and regard them as aberrant, and not closely allied to the parasitic worms mentioned. The Nematode worms, it is true, are cylindrical animals, tapering towards each end, and never divided, like so many groups in the sub-kingdom Vermes, into segments or successive joints; and the Gordiidæ agree in this total absence of metamerism or segmentation: but in their minute structure they exhibit as many diverse features, as features of resemblance, and further study is necessary to establish the position and real character of the Hair-eels. Even their alleged survival after long periods of dessication needs