

NOTES ON THE EARLY STAGES OF CORETHRA
BRAKELEYI, Coq.

BY JOHN B. SMITH, SC. D.

On June 1st, 1901, while on a mosquito hunt with Mr. J. Turner Brakeley, at Lahaway, we investigated the little pools around the head of a swamp spring. The water was very cold, and our object was, mainly, to ascertain whether *Aedes* larvæ occurred in such localities, where pitcher plants were in the vicinity.

In the course of our dipping I found a very odd little wriggler, altogether different from anything I had ever seen before, and soon Mr. Brakeley found the same thing. We took only a few of them at that time, and from their minute size I assumed they must be very young. I afterward sent a specimen to Dr. Howard, and he appeared as much at sea concerning its location as I was. It seemed to be a Culicid larva, without much doubt; but that was as far as we could get. The specimens were about an eighth of an inch in length, light reddish in colour, and very hairy in appearance. The head was very broad, and from it the body tapered gradually to the short obtuse anal siphon. Mr. Brakeley christened them "bull-heads," and I called them "triangles." They were kept alive a short time only, and during that period proved very sluggish.

July 27th, Mr. Brakeley was at Lahaway, and put in an hour dipping for mosquito larvæ in a lily pond at the foot of the garden. The pond is full of fish, but in the grassy shallows around the edge Culicids breed to a limited extent. Here he struck a little nest of the "bull-heads," and secured two dozen, which he carried to his town house in Bordentown. The little creatures remained almost motionless for hours, some at the surface, some below it at various points. Some had the anal siphon at the surface and the head a little below, the position being intermediate between that assumed by *Anopheles* and that assumed by *Culex*. Two of these little larvæ pupated on July 28th and others on the 29th, 30th, and 31st. On August 1st I went to Bordentown and took charge of the culture, expecting to get out almost anything rather than a Culicid.

The pupa was just as odd as the larva, and reminded me of a Lycænid chrysalis with a pair of breathing tubes. These pupæ were at the surface, and seemed to have little power of motion. They were easily submerged and easily drowned. Though I was as careful as I could well be, the jarring between Bordentown and New Brunswick meant death to several of them.