

the attached surface. But on the extensive flats at the upper ends of Nanoose Bay and of Oyster Harbor they occur free on the surface by thousands and more or less covered with barnacles.

Good specimens reach two inches in length by an inch and a half in breadth, with a straight dorsal margin and a semicircular ventral curvature. The right, upper or smaller valve is nearly flat or but little convex and fits into the margins of the larger, convex, lower or left valve, the greater part of the lower and posterior margin being scalloped, while the left valve has corresponding ridges and points. The color is usually dark (those under stones lighter) with the older parts weathered grayish and the umbonal region of the left valve is often attached to a small stone or another oyster or bears a scar. Internally the shell is extensively pigmented, dark, with smaller bands or blotches of lighter pearl, while the muscle scar is rather lighter and banded. The mantle is broadly margined with dark, which may also creep up on to the abdomen.

The most interesting feature in connection with the Pacific oyster of Canada is its divergence in some respects from the mode of breeding of our Atlantic species. In the British Columbia form there is no primary separation of individuals into males and females—the sexes are united in each individual. In other words each individual is bisexual, monœcious or hermaphrodite. In this respect it is identical with the English or common European species (*Ostrea edulis* L.).

My first observations were made on July 12, on specimens procured under stones near the Biological Station. Nearly all appeared to be males, and, as they were of small size, I took it that, as commonly occurs, the males had ripened earliest. But one was of medium size and contained eggs that at once attracted my attention on account of their large size, opacity and rare exhibition of nucleus. Measured exactly as all my former measurements, these gave: Oc. V. obj. 2=6.5; Oc. V,