

the sex. Both these tubes end in a spacious atrium in the centre of the body. The digestive canal posteriorly is so pressed upon by these large viscera that it becomes reduced to a mere slit in the walls of the atrium. Villot states that the atrium or cloaca is capable of protrusion externally, and Grenacher found also, in *Gordius ornatus* a well-defined cloacal aperture, but Vejdovsky failed to discover it, or to make out the testes and *vasa deferentia*.

No doubt the main function of the adult *Gordius* is the production of eggs, and the perpetuation of the species, as the digestive organs are of limited capacity and appear to end blindly in the wall of the atrium. The modes adopted for dispersal are most remarkable. Adult Hair-eels have been taken from the bodies of water-beetles when flying from one pond to another by night, the serpentine creature being, it is stated, coiled around the abdomen under the wings and elytra, though Packard states that it actually penetrates into the body of beetles and locusts, twining round the intestines of its host, and finally emerging into free life, when the water is at last gained. It is difficult to understand how the adult *Gordius* can do this, and become for the time an entoparasite. The female, on reaching the water, deposits minute whitish pear-shaped eggs, attached in strings by a cement secreted in the atrium. A thick capsule and two or three thin internal layers protect the egg, which soon divides up into a group of rounded cells, like a thimble-berry; for one end becomes pushed in, converting the germ into a cup-shaped gastrula. Later the embryo elongates, becoming pyriform, and developing three rows of hooks in the gullet, and three sharp stylets at the apex of the body. With the last-named instruments it pierces the shell, and escapes into the water. The head is everted or can be drawn in like the finger of a glove. Villot describes a strong muscular band around the anterior half of the embryo, a protrusible proboscis, a gullet or throat-tube and a capacious intestine with a ventral pore a short distance in front of the acuminate posterior end of the body. As Packard points out, the larva is wholly unlike the adult, having "some resemblance to *Acanthocephalus* by its cephalic armature,