

differs, however, from the adult in having the tarsi one-, instead of three-jointed. The body is so soft at birth and during the five moults which follow that the nymphs are frequently drowned, not being able to raise their bodies above the surface film so easily as do the more rigid adults.

During the summer there are varying numbers of broods, depending largely upon the length and temperature of the season, for this simple life-history is repeated as fast as the insects reach maturity.

Hydrometra is a carnivorous insect, its food consisting of the juices of insects that fall into the water, and the number of these is considerable along the grassy aquatic borders. When such a hapless insect falls into the water it is at once pounced upon by one or several voracious Hydrometras, who insert their beaks and proceed to suck the juices from their still struggling victim. I have seen no less than ten thus surround their prey, all with their heads in the direction of common interest and their bodies radiating outward. The body and legs of Hydrometra are covered with minute hairs, which prevent the body from being easily wet. The insect is constantly engaged in lifting its legs into the air to dry them, for if they once become wet they sink through the surface film just as would a floating needle. When Hydrometra does break through the surface film he is often able to free one leg after another, and then by main force raise his body up also.

In Lethierry and Severin's Catalogue of the Hemiptera there are listed eleven species of Hydrometra, but this list is not complete, for it does not contain *H. lineata*. These eleven species are mostly tropical and sub tropical, with the exception of the European species and one from Siberia. One species from the Philippines may eventually become a member of the fauna of the United States, though at present *H. lineata* is our sole representative of this genus. It seems that subsequent study will show more species within the boundaries of the United States, and that Say's variety *australis* will be found to be a distinct species.