

nest about the size of a musket-bullet, constructed of green algæ, and placed in a tuft of submerged grass or aquatic weeds. My eldest boy, who first showed me the nest, assures me that one of the parents, probably the male, as in the case of a common British species, remains near the precious deposit, and drives away all intruders. The ova are translucent and colourless, and of the size of a pin-head. They soon exhibit to a close inspection with the naked eye or a magnifying-glass of moderate power, two black specks, the rudiments of the eyes of the future fish; and under the microscope present the appearance represented in figure 2,

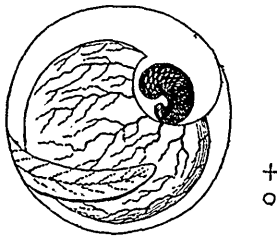


Fig. 2.—Egg of *G. gymnetes* (magnified).

the embryo being coiled up in the usual manner around the yolk-bag, and occasionally moving by convulsive jerks. At this stage I observed that microscopic animalcules had obtained access to the interior of several of the eggs, and evidently occasioned annoyance to the embryo. I have reason to believe that several embryos were destroyed in this way, and perhaps the carefully-built nest may have for one of its objects to guard against such attacks.

In two or three weeks the young extricate themselves from the egg—still only about a tenth of an inch in length, and having the yolk bag attached to the abdomen, as represented in figure 3.

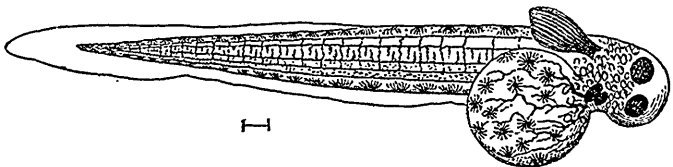


Fig. 3.—Embryo of *G. gymnetes* (magnified).

They swim quickly, and are nearly as dexterous as the adults in avoiding danger and availing themselves of places of concealment. They are now very beautiful objects for microscopic investigation. The head appears a rounded mass of cells. The eyes, however, are well developed, and can be rotated as perfectly as in the adult.