

The time of breeding of this species differs somewhat with the locality, but it takes place generally in the spring or summer months. They are very prolific. The young at first can swim freely about, but in a very short time (one writer says four days) they are fully equipped for their life work, and attaching themselves to wood, begin to bore their tunnels. After entering the wood, they increase rapidly in size, so that the adult burrows are many times larger than those by which the young enter. It is thought that as a rule they do not live longer than a year or eighteen months. They require pure salt water, free from sediment, and cannot generally live in brackish or polluted situations. Their tubes are sometimes ten inches long, but generally not more than half that length.

A piece of *Teredo*-bored wood shows but little outward trace of the condition within. Except for the small holes made by the entering young, it may appear quite sound, when in reality riddled by the burrows and composed of almost nothing but their calcareous tubes.

Along with the *Teredo*, there is frequently found a small crustacean, *Limnoria tignorum*, which also forms burrows and is very destructive. They work, however, in different ways, for the latter attack only the surface of the wood, and honey-combing it so thoroughly that nothing is left but partitions between burrows, allow it to be easily destroyed by the waves. As the outside is removed, they progress deeper, and so rapidly do they work that an inch a year is frequently removed all around the largest submerged timbers. The minute size of the burrows, about one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter, and the absence of a calcareous lining, as well as the presence of the crustacean itself, will always distinguish its ravages from those of the *Teredo*. It largely replaces the latter on those parts of the shores of Acadia where the *Teredo* does little harm, i. e., on the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia and around the Bay of Fundy, and it does great damage in these localities. It is particularly destructive at Digby. The *Teredo*, on the other hand, perforates the wood through and through, and makes it so fragile that it will break under a slight shock. It seems to have little preference in regard to the wood it attacks, the hardest and softest being equally injured. The southern palmetto is said to withstand it.

ECONOMICS. About the years 1730-32, great damage was done to the dykes of Holland by this *Teredo*. A general submergence of the country was threatened, and the consequent alarm led to the careful study of the habits and structure of the animal. Since then, it has appeared in numbers at different periods. In 1858 fresh alarm was caused, which resulted in the appointment of a commission to investigate the whole subject, and experiment upon different methods for