

# THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

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VOL. XIX. OTTAWA, AUGUST, 1905.

No. 5

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## THE EGGS OF THE SCARLET WATER-MITE (*Hydrachna sulcata*).

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The Scarlet Water-mite (*Hydrachna*) is common in ponds and ditches near Ottawa. On account of its conspicuous coloration it may be readily seen moving actively through the water, or climbing amongst green water-weeds in search of food. Its eggs and spawning habits do not seem to have been described, and in a number of papers on the Acarines or Mites, which I have looked over, I find no reference to its ova. Some of the memoirs which I have consulted (including Edouard Claparède's splendid contribution entitled "Studien an Acariden,"\* with ten exquisite coloured plates), describe and figure the ova and early stages of several allied species; but none of them quite agree with the eggs of *Hydrachna sulcata*, which I here describe. I have mounted some of the adults and the ova, in order that I may finally determine them later, as Dr. Woicott reported to Professor H. B. Ward that in certain Michigan waters no less than 43 species of Hydrachnidæ, belonging to 16 genera, had been obtained in 1893†; and, as our Ottawa region is probably no less prolific, the diagnosis of specimens demands very careful examination. Owing to the limited amount of work done in the study of mites, any observations upon them, however fragmentary, are of interest. As the Rev. O. P. Cambridge has said, the study of the mites, on account of their small size and obscure modes of life, seems to have been neglected; yet, the variety which characterises their

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\* Zeitschrift für Wiss. Zool. Band 18, 1868.

† Michigan Fish Comm. Report 1896, p. 15.