

burst when manipulated "under microscopic examination.\* The tension, due to capillary attraction when a cover-glass was placed upon the glass-side, caused them to burst, and the bright oil-globule lightly bounded out of the egg, while the thick yolk slowly poured out like clear mucilage. Unfortunately, no ripe male fish was available or the early embryonic stages of the fertilised ovum, and larval form of this species, could have been studied for the first time. In view of the character of the eggs, as now discovered, the larva is without doubt a very minute and delicate creature, far more minute and delicate than possibly any other young fresh-water fish. The post-larval stages of the marine ling, we know, are very wonderful [and extraordinary owing to the enormous wing-like ventral fins, "their most striking feature being the extraordinary length of the ventral fins . . . . of an ochre yellow color, with specks of black pigment scattered over the inter-radial membrane."\*

No doubt Buckland when he defined the spawning period of the European burbot as from the end of January to the beginning of March based his conclusion upon an examination of the ovaries in dissected specimens, and his conclusion was accurate, as the mature eggs now described were deposited about the twentieth of the month of January. The statement that the spawning sites selected are in the deepest holes in lakes, etc.,† cannot be correct, as a delicate and practically pelagic egg, such as that now demonstrated to be the burbot's egg, must be deposited in clear shallow water, and judging by analogy, the development will be rapid, and the young hatch out in a few days, possibly ten to twenty days. Actual observations alone can decide the validity of these surmises, but the newly-deposited egg, as now described, differs from that of any other fresh-water fish hitherto recorded.

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\* Professor McIntosh noted this feature in *Molva vulgaris* and said, "The zona is not so soft and tough as in the cod and haddock; but shows greater resistance, bursting rather than collapsing under pressure." Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin. Vol. xxxv, p. 827.

\*\* McIntosh and Prince: *op. cit.* p. 830.

† Buckland, Nat. Hist. Brit. Fishes, 1881, p. 35.