

Hydrometra has a very curious habit that I have frequently noticed. It lowers its body by bending the legs, until it touches the surface, and there it lies, as it were, taking its ease. I have also noticed aquarium specimens putting out their hair-like rostra and penetrating the surface film with them. It feeds on the insects that fall into the water and attacks them even before they cease to struggle. In the latter case it is extremely interesting to watch them stealthily approach their victim, extending and retracting their long beaks, retreating hastily at some sudden struggle of their prey, then once more resuming their cautious, slow approach, until at length, when the struggles of their destined meal grow feeble, some bold one injects into it the deadly poison of the Hemiptera, stilling its motions, and the others then hasten to the feast. As noted by Martin, several will fasten their beaks into one insect simultaneously.

Although Martin casts much light on it, especially on the oviposition and kindred phenomena, the life-history of *Hydrometra Martini* is still but imperfectly known. To his data my observations this summer enable me to add one or two facts of interest. I have not witnessed oviposition so entertainingly described by this author. The ovum, however, I have seen, and it is a most beautiful object under the microscope, answering in every particular to the most excellent drawing of it in his paper. I was, however, able to ascertain the period between mating and oviposition. A bred virgin female was mated on July 26th with one of the wild males taken in Staten Island in May of this year. It immediately began to swell and on the 28th or 29th of that month the first ovum was deposited, the female being then quite swollen with ova, and continuing oviposition thereafter. The number of ova deposited by a single female in the course of a summer, under favourable circumstances, must be large. The two I kept alive of those taken in Staten Island oviposited continuously from the beginning of May to the end of August, and although I did not count them, the sides of the aquarium were thickly studded with the ova, and they must have numbered hundreds. This is the more remarkable, when we consider that the abdomen of a full-grown female is not much over 6 mm. long and the ova are between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 mm. The period of emergence varies with the temperature. In the cool days of spring it is as long as 19 days; in midsummer I have had ova hatch in about nine to ten days. The nymphal stages are five, and the time between moults is about three days, giving about fifteen days for the nymphal instars. This