



Annals and Magazine of Natural History

Series 1

ISSN: 0374-5481 (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah07>

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To cite this article: Capt. Portlock R.E. (1845) LI.—Further notice respecting the ova of the large spotted dogfish (*Scyllium Catulus*), *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 15:99, 345-346, DOI: [10.1080/037454809495338](https://doi.org/10.1080/037454809495338)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/037454809495338>



Published online: 17 Dec 2009.



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LI.—*Further Notice respecting the Ova of the Large Spotted Dog-fish (Scyllium Catulus).* By CAPT. PORTLOCK, R.E.

Corfu, March 11, 1815.

IN my preceding note (p. 261) I have stated the general coincidence of the drawing given by Mr. W. Thompson with the specimens I had obtained and observed of what I also considered the ova of the large spotted dog-fish, but at that time I had been unable to procure the fish still having the ova in their last state of development prior to protrusion undisturbed within it. On the 17th of February I was more fortunate, as I obtained on that day from one of the fishermen a very fine specimen, exhibiting the ova in all states of development, the ovaries being loaded with ova of all sizes, from the most minute up to those of three-quarters of an inch in diameter, the latter being of course few in number, the former abundant. Of the greater, or those equalling and exceeding half an inch, there were at least eight, and it is probable more, as the fish had been opened and the ovaries slightly ruptured before I got it, so that some may have escaped, as they very readily did on my examination. These eggs were spherical, and of a greenish yellow colour: when put into turpentine (as I placed one), or left with the fish in a preservative mixture of corrosive sublimate, they became flattened without further injury, nearly to the thickness corresponding to the depth of the horny case, which explains how bodies of such a form and size should subsequently become invested with that covering. Risso draws a distinction in this respect between the *Scyllium Catulus* (his *S. stellaris*) and the *S. Caniculus*, stating the former to bear spherical eggs of various magnitudes of a pale yellow colour, and the latter the horny quadrangular eggs, as also *S. Artedi* (Risso), the black-mouthed dog-fish, and it is therefore probable he only saw the fish immediately after the protrusion of the horny cases from the oviducts. In my specimen they were still *in situ*, and without removing them I could measure their length and breadth and even depth. The length was in this instance almost exactly that of Mr. Thompson's specimens, viz. nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, measured to the extreme points, the breadth and depth the same as those I have before stated; the specimens appearing to vary in length, but to preserve nearly the same breadth and depth. There can now therefore be no doubt that Mr. Thompson has figured the ova of the great spotted dog-fish, although none of my specimens exhibit so rough a plaiting as his figure exhibits, and the colour when fresh is uniformly a horny yellow, though soon darkening when kept exposed. The last specimens I have obtained were fresh from the fish on the 27th of February.

P.S. Corfu, March 22.—A specimen of a female was brought
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to me this morning 21 inches long, in which the matured ova can be felt by pressure on the abdomen: I retain it therefore uninjured. This almost brings the time up to the period when I obtained the ova last year, so that it would appear that from January to May, rather than at two distinct periods, these fishes deposit their ova.

LII.—*Generic Characters of Gasterochisma melampus, a Fish which inhabits Port Nicholson, New Zealand.* By JOHN RICHARDSON, M.D., F.R.S. &c., Medical Inspector of Naval Hospitals at Haslar.

Piscis familiæ Scomberidarum.

Corpus valde compressum, clupeiforme. Cauda gracilis sine carinis. Venter acutus, alte diffissus et in vagina ejus pinnae ventrales thoracicas magnas recondens.

Linea lateralis inermis.

Pinnæ pectoris parvæ. Pinnæ dorsi contiguæ: prima spinis gracilibus membrana connexis instructa; secunda pinnaque ani pinnulis spurii comitata. Pinna caudæ bifurca.

Anus parvus sub finem vaginæ ventralis latens.

Squamæ teneræ satis magnæ. Pectorale squameum nullum.

Dentes parvi setacei.

Radii membranæ branchiostegæ arctæ quinque.

Apertura branchialis ampla.

Obs. Species unica adhuc detecta *Gasterochisma melampus* in Museo Britannico hospitatur et a Domino Gray celeberrimo mihi benigne communicata. Nomen genericum fissuram ventris denotat.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Recherches sur l'Embryogénie des Tubulaires, et l'Histoire naturelle des différens Genres de cette Famille qui habitent la côte d'Ostende. Par P.-J. Van Beneden, Professeur à l'Université catholique de Louvain. (From the Mémoires de l'Académie Royale de Bruxelles. 4to. Pp. 72. Six Plates.)

THIS interesting essay supports the well-earned reputation of its distinguished author. It begins with a lucid and candid review of what had been previously done by other naturalists towards a history of the family; a doubt of the correctness of some alleged fact being sometimes interposed, but more frequently the comment is made to reconcile observations which at first view are apparently contradictory and subversive of each other.

We can do little more than indicate the contents. The first chapter treats of the anatomy of the *Tubulariæ*. The tentacula are solid and composed of cells arranged somewhat after the pattern of the cellular tissue of vegetables. They are not organs of prehension as in the *Hydræ*, but are probably subservient to respiration. In the *Eudendrium* they are the only parts of the polyp which come into