A SPECIMEN OF STREPTOCEPHALUS TAKEN IN OKLAHOMA COUNTY

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The two specimens presented here today belong to that group of crustaceans known as Phyllopoda or the Fairy Shrimps. They were taken around the first of May 1929 in a pool of fresh water in an old rock quarry within three quarters of a mile of the Oklahoma State Capitol Building.

The authors were unable to determine the exact identity of these forms since both are females and the available keys are based almost entirely on male characters. Due to the authors' unfamiliarity with this group they were reported as Eubranchipus. However, since the presentation of this paper they have been identified as Streptocephalus probably *Streptocephalus sealii* (Ryder), by Dr. Van Cleave of Illinois and J. G. Mackin of Ada, Oklahoma. The essential difference between Streptocephalus and Eubranchipus is found in the clasping antennae of the male, specimens of which were not available.

No record has been found to show that either of these genera have been reported from Oklahoma. We present these specimens in the hope that those who have not seen them may be interested and those who have seen them may be induced to tell what they know about them.[1]

These Phyllopods make interesting laboratory animals. In captivity they swim almost continously and always swim on their backs. One specimen was kept in the laboratory for a period of two weeks.

They are translucent and rather difficult to see until located. Those you observe are preserved in formalin and are much more opaque than they are in their natural condition. The female has more of a reddish color and is slightly larger than the male. Most specimens are about 3.5 centimeters in length. The eleven pair of swimmerets or gill filaments are kept in constant motion. Eyes are sessile and black. The posterior segment has a pair of pointed appendages. The eggs may be seen in a brood-pouch on the ventral side of the female by aid of a reading lens. These eggs look like oranges in a transparent sack.

As these forms usually live in pools that are dry during parts of the season, their eggs will stand extreme desiccation. The eggs were probably carried to this locality on the feet of birds. After the first warm weather of spring came, no more Fairy Shrimp could be found in the pool.

The distribution of these forms seem to be rather erratic. They may be plentiful in a pool one season and entirely absent the next. It is this erratic distribution which makes those who have happened onto them in large numbers consider them common whereas there are many who have never seen them.

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[1]Mr. Mackin reports that he has found Streptocephalus sealii several times during the last two years and that he believes them to be well distributed over the state, especially in the southeastern region.