



AN OBSERVATION OF AN ADULT INTESTINAL ROUND-
WORM, *ASCARIDIA LINEATA* (SCHNEIDER),
WITHIN A HEN'S EGG

Roy W. Jones, *Edmond Oklahoma*

In July, 1931, Mrs. W. W. Jones of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, the mother of the writer, found an adult nematode within the white of a hen's egg. The worm was identified later by J. E. Eckert as a male of the common intestinal roundworms of chickens, *Ascaridia lineata* (Schneider). The worm was probably dead when discovered, as it displayed no movement. However, no evidence of deterioration was observed. The eggs had been obtained from the grocery store as "fresh" and had been kept in the refrigerator for a few days before being used.

The delay in reporting the item has been due in part to an effort of the writer to review the literature on the subject. Very little has been found, however. Dr. Ackert in a personal letter states, "I presume there are perhaps a half dozen cases on record, and many others that have not been reported." The only published record found was that of Carruccio in 1887. Parasitological literature and references are not very abundant in this region and for that reason other records were not located.*

The suggested explanation for the worm's location is that while still active, it migrated down the intestine to the cloaca and then up the oviduct to and beyond the region of the shell gland where it became enmeshed in the forming albumen and was thus enclosed in the shell when the egg was laid. The fact that the worm was enclosed by all the egg membranes would further substantiate this hypothesis. Since the entire passage of the ovum from the time of its discharge from the ovary to the time when it is ready for laying has been estimated to occupy about

*In the discussion following the presentation of this paper, A. N. Bragg recalled that in 1923 F. E. Pomeroy of Bates College, Lewiston, Maine reported to a class that someone had brought in a worm found in a hen's egg. There are probably many other such cases that have not been reported.

22 hours*, it would be entirely possible for the worm to be passed out in a viable condition within the egg.

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