



A METHOD FOR CUTTING TRANSVERSE SECTIONS OF HYDRA IN THE ORAL REGION SHOWING THE TENTACLES ATTACHED*

J. R. Mundie, *Norman, Oklahoma*

An Hydra was placed on a microscope slide in a large drop of water in which it had been living. It was allowed to moderately distend itself. Using a fine pointed pair of scissors or a razor blade and a needle the oral region was clipped off just below the tentacles. The disc area was then transferred to a clean Syracuse watch glass and placed in a single drop of water. As soon as the specimen had relaxed and the tentacles had become distended the dish was filled with Bouin's fluid warmed to 45° C. This was allowed to stand at room temperature for several hours. In the meantime the specimen would come to rest against the bottom of the dish with the tentacles almost at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the body.

From this point it is an ordinary procedure of dehydration and imbedding in paraffin. The next critical step is to orientate the imbedded specimen on the microtome so as to pass the cutting plane through all of the tentacles if possible. With a little care excellent sections can be secured showing the tentacles attached to the oral disc region. Later the staining process may include any desired stain.

*Contributions from the Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma. N. S. No. 191.