



A NOTE ON OKLAHOMA HYDRAS**

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The purpose of this note is to report some miscellaneous observations on the species of Hydra found in Oklahoma. So far as has been determined, only two species have been reported specifically from this state, although it is generally understood that several others occur or may be expected to do so. *Hydra littoralis* Hyman occurs in streams of the Wichita Mountain region (Trowbridge, Bragg, and Self, 1936), and *Hydra americana* has been found abundantly at several locations in the vicinity of Norman.

The specimens reported by Self and Bragg (1937) were collected in April, 1936, and were all females. Specimens collected in a slough on the South Canadian River flood plain April 5, 1937, were all males. At least some specimens taken from this same location on March 20, 1937, were also males. Hyman (1929) stated that "sexual maturity occurs in nature in the fall of the year, during the months of September and October, possibly later. Sexual specimens have, however, appeared in laboratory cultures, at all seasons of the year, without apparent cause," Hyman's specimens

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came from the region of Chicago. From our observations it is seen that in Oklahoma sexual maturity may occur in nature during the months of March and April since 1936 mature females and, in 1937, mature males were found during these months.

The size of most specimens taken in 1937 was at least twice that of those collected in 1936 from another habitat and much larger than the size given as characteristic of the species by Hyman (1929). The number of tentacles was, in general, as Hyman described it (5-8), but one specimen was found which possessed nine.

Field collections extending over several years in the vicinity of Norman give evidence that *Hydra americana* is the common species in this region and that it becomes especially abundant during the spring.

We are informed by Dr. J. R. Mundie that the common species in the region of Shawnee is the common green form, *Chlorohydra viridissima* (Pallas), sometimes called *Hydra viridis* Linn. We have found this species also around Norman on many occasions but it apparently is never as abundant as the brown form, *Hydra americana*.

There are probably several other species of Hydra in Oklahoma, but, so far as we can determine, the above named species are the only ones specifically reported. *Chlorohydra viridissima* has been known to occur here for some years but this paper apparently records it for the first time.

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