

Jane Carpenter

OBSERVATIONS ON PLETHODON CINEREUS

The morning of July 24, 1930, three sets of Plethodon eggs were collected in the hardwoods at Colonial Point on Burt Lake. All three masses were found in logs near the streams in the gullies. All the logs were very moist and very much decayed--some large and some quite small in size. The females were found coiled about the eggs in every case. These eggs were deposited about two inches from the exterior in ~~the~~ natural cavities that seem to appear as the logs decay. They hang in a vertical position and are attached by a strand of mucus to the upper surface of the cavity. Instead of being suspended all they may also be against the wood with the cavity at the side.



Upon disclosing them, the female at once leaves the eggs and seeks a dark crevice.

#1 group--8 eggs intact with female. Whole chunk of wood brought in and the eggs undisturbed. Placed in a card-board box on a bed of decayed wood. Tried to simulate natural

conditions in a rough way. When water was added it was done (so) by moistening the bottom wood. Observations on the logs, in which these animals were found, showed that, although, the logs looked dry from the exterior, the center was very much decayed and quite moist. Every day these animals were observed and the wood moistened if necessary. At no time was the female seen to return to the eggs. The box was covered and placed in a dark and fairly cool (?) corner of the laboratory.

July 12, 1930.--found all but one of the eggs had disappeared. The gelatinous mass had shrunk. Examination of the loose bottom wood revealed no trace of the eggs.

July 15, 1930.--the single remaining egg had hatched, and the young salamander was on the loose wood below. Examination of the log and loose wood revealed also two mature specimens and one year-old specimen, which apparently were already in the log when it was brought in.

All three were measured and preserved in 95% alcohol.

<u>Specimen</u>	<u>Length</u>
1 new-hatched	20 mm.
1 year-old	27 mm. (tail broken)
1 mature adult	83 mm.

#2 group.--4 eggs intact with female. Became dislocated from the large chunk of wood and brought in clinging to a small two inch piece of wood. These were placed on a bed of loose, moist, de-

loose, moist decayed wood