

A LAND PLANARIAN WITH AN ABNORMAL NUMBER OF EYES.

L. B. WALTON.

The land planarians which are relatively common in the tropical regions have few representatives in the temperate zones, only two species thus far being known from America north of Mexico, with the exception of the introduced form, *Placocephalus kewense* (Moseley) occurring in the hot houses. These are *Rhynchodemus sylvaticus* (Leidy) and *Rhynchodemus atrocyanus* Walton, the latter represented by only two specimens and the former by ten specimens all belonging to the collection of the Department of Biology, Kenyon College. It is therefore of interest to record a specimen belonging to the former species which possesses two

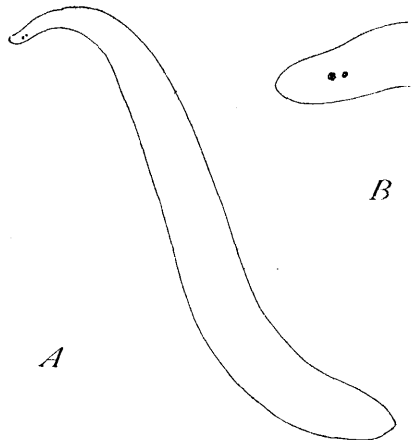


Fig 1. *Rhynchodemus sylvaticus* (Leidy). A Land Planarian from Ohio with an abnormal pair of eyes. A. Entire individual slightly contracted (x10). B. Head showing relative size of eyes (x25).

pairs of eyes instead of the normal single pair. The individual was among five collected July 4, 1904 under the partially decayed stem of a Virginia Creeper—*Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, and the peculiarity was not noted until sometime later when cleared in cedar oil preparatory to sectioning.

The two pairs of eyes are nearly normal in position, the anterior pair being 0.26 mm. and the posterior pair 0.33 mm. from the tip of the head in the preserved specimen fixed in hot sublimate alcohol (Apathy) and somewhat contracted. The anterior pair

is nearly twice the diameter of the others. No peculiarities of this nature have thus far been noted among land planarians although vonGraff ('99) in his monograph briefly discusses certain variations in other organs.

It is of interest to extend the range of our land planarians and those engaged in work in Invertebrate Zoology should be able to find them, particularly on summer mornings after a rain, under partially decayed boards on lawns, in orchards, etc., in company with young snails which they superficially resemble.

R. sylvaticus was collected by Leidy in 1851-58 and the material evidently lost. Since then the writer has taken it at Gambier and Urbana, O., and at Meadville, Pa. It is about 10 mm. long, grayish black with two darker longitudinal lines dorsally. *R. atrocyaneus* is about 20 mm. long when in a living condition, and uniformly dark blue in color. It has only been found in Gambier, O. When collected, specimens should be killed almost immediately with some hot "killing fluid" inasmuch as they die and disintegrate very quickly. They may however, be kept alive for several hours in a small clean vial provided there is also placed within a piece of a partially decayed leaf.

Gambier, O.