

# A NEW OHIO LOCALITY RECORD FOR THE GILLED OLIGOCHAETE *BRANCHIURA SOWERBYI*

ROBERT L. STRECKER

*Department of Zoology, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio*

The aquatic oligochaete, *Branchiura sowerbyi*, was first described by Beddard (1892) from a tank in the Royal Botanical Society's Garden in London, and has since been recorded in the eastern hemisphere from various localities in Europe, Japan, China, Java, and Australia (Spencer, 1932). In 1930 and 1931 it was collected from the bottom mud of Buckeye Lake, Ohio and described in some detail by Spencer (1932). It is characterized by having a slender finger-like gill on the dorsal and ventral surface of each segment for approximately the posterior third of the worm, and is readily identifiable because of this peculiarity.

On the campus of Miami University there are several small mud bottom ponds called the Fisher Ponds, and in May, 1952, several specimens of this worm were collected by Alan Sogg, a student at the University. Collections were made again in May, 1953, and the worms appeared to be fairly common in two of the ponds.

According to Pennak (1953, and correspondence) these worms have also been found in Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Tennessee. Evidently this species is more abundant and more widely distributed throughout the midwestern United States than published records would indicate.

## REFERENCES

- Beddard, F. E.** 1892. A new branchiate Oligochaete (*Branchiura sowerbyi*). *Quart. Jour. Micr. Sci.* 33: 325.
- Pennak, R. W.** 1953. *Fresh-water invertebrates of the United States.* Ronald Press, New York. 769 p.
- Spencer, W. P.** 1932. A gilled oligochaete *Branchiura sowerbyi* new to America. *Trans. Amer. Microsc. Soc.* 51: 267-272.
-