

BRIEF NOTE

CYCLOPS NANUS SARS, 1863 (COPEPODA, CYCLOPOIDA): A NEW RECORD FOR LAKE ERIE¹

The copepod *Cyclops nanus* Sars, 1863 was found in meiobenthic samples collected August 20, 1975 from one station at a depth of 18 m. This site was approximately 6 km offshore in the Central Basin of Lake Erie off Ashtabula, Ohio (Latitude: 41°56'53"; Longitude: 80°50'04"). Eleven adult females were identified.

Benthic samples were taken with a 30 cm Spade Box Corer (General Oceanographics, Inc.). Subsamples were removed from each box core with 30 cm KB corer liners, extruded, vertically sectioned and passed through U.S. Geological Survey No. 30 and No. 60 sieves. Only the top 5 cm of the cores contained *C. nanus*.

After an exhaustive review of the literature (Davis 1969, Rolan 1970, Watson 1974, Watson and Carpenter 1974, Patalas 1975, Watson 1976), it was concluded that *C. nanus* has not been reported previously in Lake Erie. The only other known appearance of *C. nanus* in the Great Lakes was in the Georgian Bay region of Lake Huron (Hare 1976). He observed the organism at a water depth of 30, 75 and 100 m.

In Europe, *C. nanus* is typical of shallow dystrophic waters (Rylov 1948). In North America it is considered very rare and has been reported from bottom material in a lake in North Carolina (Yeatman 1959). The organisms reported herein from Lake Erie were found in a sandy-silt habitat. It is unlikely that

this species has recently expanded its distribution. Most probably paucity of meiobenthic studies is responsible for the very limited reports of *C. nanus*.

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