

BRIEF NOTE

NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORDS OF *CORDYLOPHORA LACUSTRIS*
AND *CRASPEDACUSTA SOWERBYI* (COELENTERATA)
IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS¹

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There are few reports in the literature of *Cordylophora lacustris* and *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* in Illinois. This note presents new distribution records for these rare species within the southern part of the state.

Cordylophora lacustris Allman is thought to be cosmopolitan in distribution (Pennak 1953), however, there are few reports of its occurrence within the inland freshwaters of North America (Leidy 1870, Potts 1884, Smith 1910, Garman 1922, Davis 1957, Blair 1964, Hubschman 1972). The only previously published occurrence in Illinois was in 1909 when Smith (1910) reported it from the Illinois River near Havana. On 9 October 1976, 13 November 1976, and 9 August 1977, during the course of routine monthly monitoring of the fauna of Baldwin Lake (St. Clair and Randolph Counties, IL), colonies of *C. lacustris* were observed growing on Dendy multiple-plate samplers. In all instances, dense growths of the hydroid polyp were noted on these hardboard substrates, which were suspended 40 cm beneath the surface, in water 2 to 3 m deep.

Baldwin Lake is a man-made power-station cooling reservoir adjacent to, and receiving most of its water from, the Kaskaskia River. It was constructed in 1970 to provide cooling water for the Illinois Power Company's power station. The lake water is remarkably turbid, due to the shallowness of the water body, and is unusually warm due to thermal pollution.

Craspedacusta sowerbyi Lankester was first reported in Illinois from Fayette County (Van Cleave 1936). A year later Steagall (1937) reported it in southern Illinois from the state water tank at Anna (Union County). Since that time no one has reported it from the extreme southern part of the state, although it has been reported from 5 central and northern counties (Walley 1972). On 8 August 1977 in Little Grassy Lake (Williamson County, IL), a conspicuous bloom of the freshwater medusa of *C. sowerbyi* was noted. On 9 August 1977 the lake was revisited and approximately 50 specimens were collected.

It has been well known to local zoologists, however, that for 12 years or more the medusae have occurred frequently (perhaps every year) in both Little Grassy Lake and Devil's Kitchen Lake, Williamson County. Data from preserved specimens in the Zoology Department at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale indicate that the medusae were previously located in Little Grassy Lake by C.S. Steiner on 31 July 1970, by D.G. McDonald and D. Graham on 22 September 1971, and by D. Ukrain and D. Whitacre in July 1974. They have been found in Devil's Kitchen Lake (a near neighbor to Little Grassy Lake) by J.A. Smithson on 27 July 1969, and by M. Hapeman on 12 August 1975.

The medusae are more frequently noticed, and in larger numbers, in Little Grassy Lake, a 1000 acre impoundment whose construction was completed in 1951 (Mohlenbrock 1976). The dominant aquatic plants in the lake, including the immediate shoreline, are *Eleocharis*

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acicularis, *E. obtusa*, *Jussiaea diffusa*, *Justicia americana*, *Najas minor* and *Potamogeton diversifolius*. The water quality of Little Grassy Lake is good to excellent. At the time of collection of *C. sowerbyi* on 9 August 1977, the water temperature was found to be a uniform 28°C (through 3.5 m) and a secchi disk reading of 2.16 m was obtained.

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