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A Brackish-water Medusa from Japan¹⁾

By

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(With 1 Text-figure)

Recently through the kindness of Mr. H. Tomoöka of the Meiji High School several specimens of brackish-water medusae were forwarded to the writer for identification. These medusae were collected in a concrete tank, 1.5m × 1.5m × 1.5m in volume, in the ruins after a fire close to the sea, in Sendamachi, Katsushika District of Tokyo. Soon after the tank having been washed by the flood occurred on Oct. 1, 1949, there were discovered in it together with copepods and protozoans several hydromedusae. The medusae were observed swimming actively in the daytime by the end of the month and then entirely disappeared in November. The salinity of the water was 1‰ and the temperature ranged 11°C-17°C while the medusae were found.

On closer examination, it was revealed that these medusae all belong to the genus *Moerisia* as will be described in the following: Bell dome-like, 4 mm in diameter in the largest specimen, with soft, rather thin jelly. Manubrium not distinctly four-sided. Radial canals straight, four in number, connecting at their base with the radial canal. Tentacles directly arising from the bell margin, rather short, 32 in number, long and short, alternative in position. On the abaxial side of enlarged tentacle-bases is found a dark brown ocellus. No statocysts observed on the margin. Gonads developed along the radial canals, extending over half the whole length from the manubrium.

In 1928 Uchida in his joint work reported the lucustrine hydroid, *Laccocoryne horii* as a new genus from two brackish lakes, Kahoku-

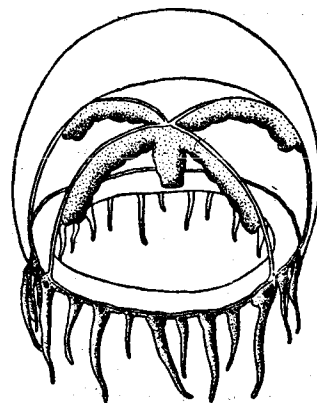


Fig. 1. A *Moerisia*-type medusa, 4 mm wide.

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gata and Oochigata. The hydroid was described at first as a member of the Corynidae but afterward referred by the writer (1934) to the Moerisidae. Valkanov (1938) using the material of the hydroid sent by Uchida published a monograph of the Moerisidae and enumerated the following five genera, *Moerisia*, *Caspionema*, *Ostroumovia*, *Laccocoryne* and *Halmomisis* as valid. In the same year Kramp examined the medusa of *Ostroumovia* and pointed out the presence of the marginal statocysts in it and transferred the genus from the Moerisidae to the Olindiadae, though the polyp is closely allied to those of the former. In 1948 Muto who studied the polyp of *Laccocoryne horii* in detail confirmed that the polyp is almost coincided with that of *Ostroumovia*, though slightly different in nematocysts, and he concluded that *Laccocoryne* is synonymous with *Ostroumovia*, leaving the medusa-stage out of consideration. According to Mr. T. Ito of the Ehime University, *Laccocoryne horii* is rather common on the coasts of Japan and besides the two lakes above given, it was also found in Matsushima (Honshu), Kochi (Shikoku) and Fukuoka (Kyushu). There having been found in Japanese waters no other hydroid similar to *Laccocoryne*, it is highly probable that the medusan specimens here considered have been liberated from the Japanese hydroid. These medusae are distinctly referable to the Moerisidae but not to *Ostroumovia*, in the absence of statocysts and in the structure of marginal tentacles. Moreover, the canal of each tentacle of our medusae is connected directly with the ring canal, but not through the narrow intermediate canal as in *Ostroumovia*. Such being the case, if the medusae were liberated from *Laccocoryne*, the two genera *Laccocoryne* and *Ostroumovia* must be separated as by Hadzi and Valkanov.

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