



Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS
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No Voice, But Mollusks Have Hackaw in Mouth

Those lowly creatures, of which there are thousands of species and millions of individuals, equipped with a "lingual ribbon" have no voice. That so-called "lingual ribbon," however, is about the most essential part of their anatomy.

The creatures are the mollusks and the "lingual ribbon" is their tongue, scientifically known as a "radula." It is an organ with which they secure their food, rasp it to pieces and even bore a hole in the stone-like shell of another mollusk.

The word, "radula," is derived from the Latin and means "scraper." That is exactly what the tongue of the mollusk accomplishes; it scrapes vegetable matter from rocks if its owner is a vegetable-eating mollusk, or rasps flesh to pieces if the mollusk is a flesh eater.

The radula is drawn backwards and forwards over the surface on which it is working, and the sharp tooth-like processes, arranged crossways on the surface, rasp, tear and file the material. Some species use the radula to bore holes, constantly rasping the sharp barbs of the radula until an opening is made through which the tongue is intruded and the body juices of the victim are sucked out.

Those mollusks that feed on vegetable matter have many more teeth-like projections on the tongue than do those that feed on flesh. With the vegetable eaters, the word scraper for tongue becomes more descriptive, for, like the action of a putty knife on a flaking painted surface, the tongue scrapes the algae from the rock or any other object on which this plant life is growing.

The "wear and tear" on the tooth processes is terrific. Scraping low-growing vegetable matter from a rough stone wears teeth down pretty rapidly, dulls them and would make further feeding difficult and useless were it not for the fact nature foresaw this condition. New teeth grow in, as rapidly and as often as needed. The common garden snail, whose tongue is generously equipped with thousands of rasplike teeth, can grow new teeth at a remarkably rapid rate.

Too, like any well behaved tongue should, the radula of the mollusk must be conscious to taste, as the animal will not feed on any material with which it is unfamiliar, or that has a flavor foreign to its appetite. The tongue of this lowly creature must also have a fine sense of feel, as the flesh-eating mollusk never wastes its time trying to rasp a hole in a shell from which the original owner has departed.

It's a peculiar analogy to liken the tongue of the lowly mollusk with the tongue of the so-called "king of beasts," the lion, but the tongues in

both these creatures are very similar; both are raspy and capable of a filing action.

In some mollusks, the radula is twice as long as the body of its owner, and as essential as its protective shell.

A peculiar creature, a mollusk. It carries in its "mouth," or more correctly its body mantle, a file; a fleshy organ called a "lingual ribbon" with teeth that can cut like a hacksaw.

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Grange News

Greenhorn Grange
Visitors at the Greenhorn Grange meeting recently included the California Grange news representative, Jim Kelly, and his wife from Redding, Alvin Lewis, Pomona Grange master; Helen Lewis, of the Scott Valley Grange; and Frank Bear, executive committeeman, and his wife, of Hornbrook Grange.

Kelly was present at the meeting to give information and answer questions on "Butter," the booster barrel. The Grange heard Tahir Aksoy, American Field Service exchange student from Turkey, and Jess Grisham, Siskiyou county agricultural commissioner, March 23.

A short entertainment followed the business session which included accordion solos and readings and community singing with Mrs. John Cawley accompanying at the piano.

Refreshments were served by Miss Zelma Walter, chairman, assisted by Ernest Walter and Mr. and Mrs. Webster Flock.

Eugene Woman Gets Seven Years in Prison

Eugene—Jury Circuit Judge William Fort Monday sentenced Mrs. Shirley Mae Huckins, 22, Eugene, to seven years in prison for kidnapping. Mrs. Huckins was convicted by a Circuit Court jury here last month for her part in the abduction of a Cottage Grove policeman, his wife and a passerby last Dec. 28.

BOXING RULES URGED

Salem—Jury Circuit Judge William Fort Monday should be allowed to continue only if protective headgear is adopted and changes are made in gloves, according to Gov. Mark Hatfield.

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