

narrow and consisting of a small rounded lobe below the beaks, on each side ; posterior side longer, and a little wider in the direction of its height ; posterior end vertically subtruncate at its mid-height, rounding abruptly into the cardinal margin above and into the ventral margin below. Ventral margin gently convex but curving upward more abruptly and rapidly at the posterior than at the anterior end ; superior border almost straight and nearly horizontal ; umbones depressed, anterior, very nearly but not quite terminal ; beaks incurved.

Surface markings not at all well preserved in either of the specimens collected, but apparently consisting of fine concentric lines of growth. Hinge dentition and muscular impressions unknown.

Approximate dimensions of the specimen figured : maximum length, fifteen millimetres ; greatest height, eleven mm. ; maximum width, or thickness through the closed valves, nearly nine mm.

Trenton limestone, Ottawa, E. Billings : four nearly perfect but badly preserved specimens.

*M. brevis* can be distinguished at a glance from *M. tener*, *M. rugosa* and *M. recta*, by its comparatively short, tumid and regularly convex valves.

Ottawa, April 16th, 1903.

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## REPORT OF THE ZOOLOGICAL BRANCH, 1902.

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*To the President and Council of the  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.*

In submitting the usual report referring to the zoological work of the Club during the past year, it must be admitted that no very new or striking facts are available such as would give special interest or value to this annual record. Many years ago the leaders of the Zoological section pointed out that original observations on our native mammals are becoming more difficult, as the city continues to expand and the surrounding country becomes more thickly occupied, and they specified the moles, the shrews, and the smaller rodents as likely to afford the main field



for work open to resident zoologists in Ottawa. This is still largely true, and the shrews, the mice, voles and other small rodents, still invite more systematic study, with the possibility of interesting discoveries. The bats, too, are comparatively neglected, although few of our local naturalists can claim to be familiar with all the species occurring in the capital and its neighbourhood. If during the coming season a small group of enthusiasts would determine to take up such neglected branches of study as these, the zoological section of the Club would have something new and valuable to lay before the members. It is known that the white-footed mouse, the red-backed mouse, and several species of interesting field-mice are found in the Ottawa district, but actual records of specimens obtained are few and far between. A fine specimen of the Black Squirrel, from the Gatineau region, it is understood, was on exhibition on Sparks street in December, and a remarkably handsome Silver Fox from the Coulonge district has been exhibited alive in the city within the last two or three weeks. The amphibians, turtles and snakes of Ottawa require thorough investigation, and observations such as those of Mr. W. S. Odell, two or three years ago, on *Spelerpes bilineatus*, are much required. One member of the Club, Mr. Andrew Halkett, is able to record the examination of a great variety of Teleostean fishes from various localities in Ontario and Quebec. These are being preserved to form the nucleus of a new collection of fishes in connection with the Marine and Fisheries Department.

Professor Macoun handed to Mr. Halkett a specimen of the Brook or White Sucker (*Catostomus commersonii*) obtained by Mr. R. B. Whyte. Fishery Inspector Loveday also furnished a Lamprey (*Petromyzon concolor*) in the larval stage, which had already assumed the parasitic habit and had attached itself to a catfish (*Ameiurus nebulosus*). Through the assistance of Dr. T. Bell, Algonquin Park specimens of Great Lake Trout, Yellow Perch, Ling, Chub, Speckled Trout, etc., from the Provincial Park were obtained, while fine specimens of large-mouthed Black Bass from Port Perry, Ontario, were sent by Officer J. E. Evans, taken in Lake Scugog. Unusually large examples of the Cisco (*Coregonus artedii*) were received from Lake Erie in November, and Mr. Halkett collected at Healy's Falls, Northumberland Co., Ont., Catfishes



(*Ameiurus*), Mulletts or Suckers (*Catostomus*), Sun-fishes (*Lepomis*), Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*), Ling or Burbot (*Lota maculosa*), also Gar-pike or Bill-fish (*Lepidosteus*) and Killifishes (*Fundulus diaphanus*), in the Bay of Quinte, near Belleville. While in the Province of Nova Scotia, Mr. Halkett secured, at or near Digby, last fall, the Picked Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), Codfish (*Gadus callarias*), Tom cod (*Microgadus tomcod*), Haddock (*Melanogrammus æglefinus*), Hake (*Merluccius bilinearis*) Halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*), Herring (*Clupea harengus*), Smelt (*Osmerus mordax*), Gunnel or Butterfish (*Pholis gunnellus*), also bones of the Angler or Goosefish (*Lophius piscatorius*), and the scapular bones, two vertebræ and three ribs of a Beluga or White Whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*). Finally, a small Sturgeon (*Acipenser*), and the head of a large example, were obtained in the St. Lawrence, near Lancaster, Ont.

In spite of meagre results, suitable for recording in such a report as this, there is every reason to believe that the zoologists are in various ways vigorously pursuing their favourite studies, and, if no important discoveries are made, these studies are a never-ending source of interest and enjoyment.

JOHN MACOUN,  
E. E. PRINCE,  
W. S. ODELL,  
ANDREW HALKETT.

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#### ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH.

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The third meeting was held at Mr. Halkett's residence on Thursday, Feb. 12th at 8 p.m., and was opened by the host with some observations upon his very attractive collection. His object, when he began collecting, was chiefly to obtain pretty specimens, but he now recognized that such a collection should only be a stepping-stone to one of greater usefulness in which life-histories would be illustrated. After some discussion on these lines, a list was submitted by Mr. Harrington of some forty species of diptera new to the Ottawa List, and he read a short note urging the importance of the study of this order, in view of the influence of



Macoun, James Melville et al. 1903. "Report of the Zoological Branch, 1902."  
*The Ottawa naturalist* 17(2), 34–36.

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