

Rhynchosaurus and the probably Triassic African and Asiatic allies of that genus, or to the Mesozoic Dinosauria, and that, whether the age of the deposit in which it occurs be Triassic or Devonian, *Telerpeton* is a striking example of a *persistent type* of animal organization.—*Proc. Geol. Soc.* Dec. 19, 1866.

On the Incubation of the Eggs of the Small Spotted Dogfish (Scylium catulus). By M. COSTE.

At Concarneau, in a reservoir of 1500 metres surface and of 3 metres in depth, divided into six compartments, hollowed out in a granite rock and defended by thick walls from the violence of the waves, we have succeeded, by means of grated floodgates which may be opened or closed at pleasure, in imitating the conditions of the open sea, with its flux and reflux, so well that organic phenomena hitherto most completely concealed in the depths of the ocean are accomplished there under the eye of the observer. Not only do most of the species live there in a state of familiar domesticity, exhibiting all the peculiarities of their habits, but their reproduction is effected, presenting a new field of observation in embryogeny. Of this the following is a fresh example:—

“At the beginning of April 1866,” M. Guillou writes to me, “we put into one of the compartments of the vivarium a pair of the Little Spotted Dogfish (*Squalus catulus*, Linn.). The female laid eighteen eggs in the course of the month. These eggs hatched at the beginning of December; the incubation therefore lasts about nine months. The young are very lively.”

Thus a phenomenon which lasts nine months (and one of the most delicate phenomena, since it implies the formation of a superior organism) may be accomplished under these artificial conditions with as much certainty as if it took place at the great depths where this species usually deposits its eggs. This, in my opinion, is one of the most decisive proofs of the perfection of the vast hydraulic apparatus in which we carry on our experiments. Thanks to the perfection of this apparatus, we shall henceforward study the development of marine species, day by day and hour by hour, just as we investigate that of the chicken in the egg.

At one of the extremities of the vivarium there is a large building, of which the ground-floor is provided with numerous aquaria for the isolation of objects which it is desired to observe closely; whilst its first floor has been converted into rooms for dissections and microscopic observations. Six French and foreign naturalists came last summer to take their places in this laboratory, and devoted themselves in perfect freedom to any investigations that they chose to undertake. I offer the same hospitality to any who may be disposed to profit by it. It is from this laboratory that we have derived all the principles which served for the basis of the regulation of the marine fisheries, and all the methods the application of which justly claims the title of the “agriculture of the sea.”—*Comptes Rendus*, January 21, 1867, pp. 99–100.



Coste. 1867. "On the incubation of the eggs of the small spotted dogfish (*Scyllium catulus*).*" The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 19, 227–227.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/72153>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/61012>

Holding Institution

University of Toronto - Gerstein Science Information Centre

Sponsored by

University of Toronto

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.