

each is folded up and lies in a groove on the latero-posterior surface of the carapax. The external maxillipeds have almost exactly the same structure as in the adult *Ocypoda*; and, as in the adult *Ocypoda*, there is a tuft of peculiar hairs between the bases of the second and third ambulatory legs. This megalops is common upon the coast of the Southern States; it has been found at Block Island; and I have myself collected it, late in August, at Fire-Island Beach, Long Island. In the largest specimen from the last locality the carapax is 9.4 millims. long and 5.6 broad.

A large number of young specimens of the *Ocypoda*, collected at Fire-Island Beach, indicate plainly that they had only recently changed from this megalops. Some of the smallest of these specimens, in which the carapax is 5.6–6.0 millims. long and 6.1–6.5 broad, differ from the adult so much that they might very easily be mistaken for a different species. The carapax is very slightly broader than long, and very convex above. The front is broad, not narrowed between the bases of the ocular peduncles, and triangular at the extremity. The margin of the orbit is not transverse, but inclines obliquely backward. The ambulatory legs are nearly naked; and those of the posterior pair are proportionally much smaller than in the adult.

The adult *Ocypoda* is terrestrial in its habits, living in deep holes above high-water mark on sandy beaches; but the young in the zoëa state are undoubtedly deposited in the water, where they lead a free-swimming existence like true pelagic animals, until they become full-grown in the megalops state. Say mentions that his specimens were found cast upon the beach by the reflux tide and “appeared desirous to protect themselves by burrowing in the sand, in order to wait the return of the tide;” but they were more likely awaiting the final change to the terrestrial state. The tufts of peculiar hairs between the bases of the second and third ambulatory legs, and in the adult connected with the respiration, are present in the full-grown megalops, and are undoubtedly provided to fit the animal for its terrestrial existence as soon as it is thrown upon the shore. The young in the megalops stage occur on the shore of Long Island in August, and perhaps earlier. At Fire-Island Beach, in 1870, no specimens of *Ocypoda* were discovered till the last of August; and those first found were the smallest ones obtained; by the middle of September, however, they were common on the outer beach, and many of them were twice as large as those first obtained. Although careful search was made along the beach for several miles, not a specimen of the adult or half-grown crab could be found. Every individual there had evidently landed and developed during the season. Probably all those living the year before had perished during the winter; and it is possible that this species never survives long enough to attain its full growth so far north.—*Amer. Journ. of Science and Arts*, July 1873.

The Torpedo or Electrical Ray.

A specimen of this remarkable and somewhat rare fish was brought up in the trawl yesterday off Portland. It was about 40 inches in length.

Weymouth, July 10, 1873.

R. DAMON.



Damon, Robert. 1873. "The torpedo or electrical ray." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 12, 187–187.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00222937308680738>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54290>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222937308680738>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/53555>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

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>.