

remains of the moults in places inhabited by the Gamasidæ, as we do in those frequented by species of *Tyroglyphus*, *Psoroptes*, &c.

After the last moult the form acquired is unchangeable, and broken limbs are not renewed. I have often met with adult Gamasidæ, especially males, having one of the posterior legs broken; but the stump, formed then by the trochanter, never bore any trace of renovation such as we see in the crayfish.—*Comptes Rendus*, June 8th, 1874, pp. 1657–1660.

*Observations on the Fecundation of the Batrachia Urodela.*

By M. C. ROBIN.

I have the honour to communicate to the Academy the results of a series of observations proving that in the oviparous Batrachia Urodela (*Siredon*, *Triton alpestris*, *palmatus*, *cristatus*, *abdominalis*, or *punctatus*) the fecundation is internal, as in the viviparous Urodela, and not external, as in the Anura. The ova at the moment of deposition and even in the cloaca are fecundated; that is to say, they contain spermatozoids which have penetrated between the vitelline membrane and the vitellus. On opening the females during oviposition we find spermatozoids in the cloaca and at 3 or 4 millimetres up the oviducts. They are also found in pregnant females not engaged in oviposition and the oviducts of which do not even contain eggs coming from the ovary; this fact shows that the intromission of the semen takes place some days before the commencement of the oviposition. Thus when expelled artificially, or deposited by females separated from the males, the eggs become segmented at from 4 to 16 hours after their escape, and are developed like those deposited quite independently of all experimental conditions.

The male axolotl introduces his spermatozoids in bundles forming a small, solid, white mass 2 or 3 millimetres in thickness, surmounted by a conoidal transparent mass about 1 centimetre in length and thickness, composed of small, cell-like, hyaline bodies; the whole forms a sort of spermatophore, which sometimes, not penetrating into the cloaca of the female, falls and floats in the water.—*Comptes Rendus*, May 4, 1874, p. 1254.

*The Large Seal (Halichærus grypus) in Cornwall.*

There is little doubt that this seal inhabits the north coast of Cornwall. Mr. R. N. Worth, of Plymouth, informs me that "the seals there are of a large size, and at times they are even abundant, and have favourite caverns which they seem to haunt." It has not before been recorded as occurring so far south.—J. E. GRAY.



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