

fell on the snake and was promptly taken, but the snake did not seem able to find the head to start swallowing. It killed the mouse and relaxed its coils at 10.46 a.m. but did not eat the dead mouse till after nightfall.

On 31st July another *Pseudoboa neuwiedii* was brought to me and I put it in a cage with a *Leptodeira annulata*. Anticipating what would happen I measured both snakes and found that the *Pseudoboa* was just over 3 feet and the *Leptodeira* 22 inches long. Next day I found that the *Pseudoboa* had swallowed the *Leptodeira* during the night.

L. WEHEKIND

Egg laying in *Imantodes cenchoa* and *Leptodeira annulata*.

On 27th July 1957 at 9.08 a.m. I went to feed a captive specimen of *Imantodes cenchoa* and found it in the act of laying. The egg had just appeared at the vent and 5 minutes later it had emerged completely.

At 9.31 a.m. a slight contraction passing along the body showed that a second egg would be laid. The times of all subsequent contractions and the duration of each were noted. From 9.32 to 9.37 there were found contractions each lasting 15 seconds and at 9.43 one, lasting 20 seconds. From 9.44 to 10.09 there were 13 contractions of 10 to 15 seconds except the one at 10.07 which lasted 30 seconds. At 10.10 the egg was seen to be approaching the vent. There were seven further contractions, the longest being 50 seconds, and at 10.19 the egg appeared at the vent. The egg had completely emerged 45 seconds later.

During the whole procedure the snake remained wedged in between the drinking trough and the side of the cage and she stayed in this position until nightfall, paying no attention to the newly-laid eggs. Some leaf mould was placed in the cage but she made no attempt to cover the eggs with it. The eggs were later placed in damp leaf mould but did not hatch.

During the night of 14th August 1957 a *Leptodeira annulata* laid four eggs in the drinking trough where she remained throughout the following day. The eggs measured 28 x 10 mm, 26 x 11 mm, 27 x 11mm and 27 x 10 mm. They, too, were placed in leaf mould but did not hatch.

L. WEHEKIND

Terrestrial Amphipod Crustaceans from Trinidad

THIS report concerns a group of shore-dwelling amphipod crustaceans, commonly called beach fleas or sand hoppers, of world-wide tropical and warm-temperate distribution. These animals were probably among the first marine creatures attempting to colonize the land and are among the most primitive of existing terrestrial arthropods. As previous knowledge of the talitrid fauna of the Caribbean region is very imperfect, and that of Trinidad nil, the present records are noteworthy. *Orchestia platensis* Kr. (eastern Canada to Argentina) and *Talorchestia sulenstoni* Stebb. (originally described from Madeira) are herewith recorded for the first time from Trinidad, and the latter for the first time from America. Careful search of other types of beaches, particularly in estuaries and mangrove swamps would undoubtedly yield additional interesting species.

Material (all from Trinidad, B.W.I.) :
Orchestia platensis Kroyer 1844.

(1) St. Peter's Bay, Carenage; under seaweed; stone and sand beach; coll. V. Quesnel, Aug. 4, 1957. — 12 males, 10 females (ovig.), 9 immatures. *Talorchestia sulenstoni* Stebbing 1899.

(i) Mayaro; burrowing near HW in sandy beach; coll. V. Quesnel, June 23, 1957. — 5 males, 21 females (mostly ovig.), 5 immatures.

(ii) The Cocos, near Nariwa Swamp; burrowing in sand near HW mark; coll. W. B. Scott, June 3, 1957. — 4 males, 3 females (ovig.)

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Ovoviviparity in the Cockroach,

Epilampra abdomen-nigrum Degeer.

On 3rd December, 1954 I was collecting cockroaches of this species with which to feed a fledging nighthawk. As I caught them I crushed their heads and placed them in a jar. On going to feed the nighthawk I noticed that there were numbers of young cockroaches in the jar, and a minute or two later I saw a small piece of tissue being extruded from one of the cockroaches. It was obvious that this cockroach had just given birth to the young ones. There were about 44 of them. They were almost pure white at birth but became quite dark within twelve hours.

My inquiry at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) revealed that in cockroaches ovoviviparity and, indeed, viviparity are well known, for in some species the ootheca is membranous or incompletely formed and retained internally. Recently, I dissected three females and found each to be carrying a well-developed ootheca so this species must be regarded as ovoviviparous rather than viviparous. Ovoviviparity in this species has not been recorded previously.

As far as I know, *Epilampra* is not normally a household pest but occurs out-of-doors under stones, in rotting wood and other vegetable matter. It is about one inch long when full grown and apart from its rather dark abdomen is straw-coloured with small brown speckles on the elytra.

Note: The species was identified at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

V. C. QUESNEL.

TRINIDAD FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

On 14th March, 1956, in the presence of members of the club and relatives of the persons commemorated, a memorial to six distinguished past members of the club was unveiled at the Royal Victoria Institute Museum. Later in the year, the typescript of the first number of a new series of the Journal of the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club went to the press and only a slightly longer sojourn there than was anticipated prevented its publication in 1956. These two events, which bring to fruition the hopes and plans of