

**Short communication**

**THE OCCURRENCE OF *CRASPEDACUSTA SOWERBYI* LANCESTER  
ALONG THE RIVER TISZA**

K. BÁBA

*Department of Biology, Juhász Gyula Teachers' Training College, H-6722 Szeged, Boldogasszony sgt. 6,  
Hungary*

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This fresh-water medusa was first found in the aquarium of the Teachers' Training College in Pécs by BUCHERT in 1956. In the late summer of 1959, both the medusa and the polyp form of the species were found in a backwater of the River Dráva at Órtilos by EPERJESSY and BUCHERT. The appearance of the species was first reported by WIESINGER in 1959. A detailed description of its development, nutrition and taxonomy according to laboratory examinations was given by BUCHERT (1960).

**Position and habitat of the species**

The effective name of the species was given by DEJDAR in 1934. He ranked it in the Trachylinae suborder and the Olindididae family. The species is wide spread in Europe except the Balkans, and also lives in China and North America (UCHIDA, 1955). BUCHERT found it in various reed-grass vegetation (*Myriophyllum verticillatum*, *M. spicatum*, *Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Utricularia*, *Potamogeton perfoliatus*, *Sagittaria*) and among *Phragmites*. It multiplies by zoogamy and by asexual reproduction. The polyp form displays dimorphism: it has a form with varying numbers of tentacles (8-54) and a form without tentacles. The polyp reproduces the medusa by gemmation. Both the polyp and the medusa live on algae, protozoa, small Crustacea, Rotatoria, Turbellaria and Nematoda. Under laboratory circumstances it also eats *Tubifex* and *Stylaria lacustris*.

**Known occurrence in Hungary**

The medusa form has been detected so far in the backwaters of the Dráva at Órtilos and Gyékényes, in the gravel-pit lakes at Órtilos Railway Station, in the Gyékényes-Lankóczi wood in the Bélavár-Palínai wood and in a backwater between Cikolasziget

and Doborgaz in the Szigetköz (as reported by ÁBRAHÁM and SZINETÁR). It has also been found in the lake at Nyékládháza-Debrecen (NÉMETH).

### New habitat of the medusa

The medusa form of *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* was found in the backwater of River Tisza at Tiszadob by ÁDÁM during summer field work on 4th July 1995. It was floating 8-10 metres from the reed bank, next to the reed-grass vegetation in the open water. Some 20 specimens of the species were collected and are stored at the Biological Department of Juhász Gyula Teachers' Training College.

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