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ODOSTOMIA TURRITA FOUND ON*HOMARUS GAMMARUS*¹

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Several species of molluscs belonging to the family Pyramidellidae have been reported as ectoparasites of other marine invertebrates (Robertson & Orr 1961, Cheng 1967), but only one observation of a pyramidellid in association with a crustacean has been reported (Fretter & Graham 1949).

In October 1969 a lobster (*Homarus gammarus* (L.) = *H. vulgaris* H. Milne Edwards) of 5.1 kg weight was brought to the Zoological Museum in Oslo. The lobster was collected at Herad near Farsund on the Norwegian coast. On the pinching legs and carapace were observed a few *Pomatoceros triqueter* (L.) and by close examination of the gills one specimen of *Odostomia turrita* Hanley was found. The identification of the *Odostomia* species was kindly done by Mr. Tore Høisaeter. The *O. turrita* had to sit well-attached to the gills as the lobster was boiled, transported and handled by fishmongers before delivered to the museum.

O. turrita is distributed from the north of Norway south to the Mediterranean, but no information about its host-specificity has been reported. According to Robertson & Orr (1961) the discovery of a pyramidellid "on" or "with" another invertebrate does not mean necessarily that the invertebrate in question is host to the pyramidellid. The only reliable records of parasitic relationships are those in which a pyramidellid has been seen to feed.

Observation of feeding was in this case impossible, but the record is still interesting as no earlier observation of *Odostomia* species associated with decapod crustaceans has been reported. Fretter & Graham (1949) have seen *O. plicata* (Montagu) thrust its proboscis onto the antennae of amphipods at Plymouth but this behaviour may well have been accidental (Robertson & Orr 1961).

Although the case remains to be proved there is no reason to believe that the *O. turrita* found on the lobster gill could possibly be associated with the few *P. triqueter* located on the exoskeleton of the lobster.

LITERATURE CITED

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