

75. **Another Unusual Case of Erratic Hirudiniasis.** MARVIN C. MEYER, University of Maine.

Among the leeches submitted recently for determination was a lot coming from an unusual and apparently unrecorded location, which is of especial interest and warrants reporting. This material, 2 specimens received August 12, 1958, through the Animal Disease and Parasite Research Division, U.S.D.A., was contributed by Dr. Birch L. McMurray, Florida Livestock Board, Callahan, and was accompanied by a note stating that the leeches were milked from the teats of a dairy cow. These leeches, as well as a second lot from Florida received about the same time, were identified as *Macrobdella ditetra* Moore, (1953, Notulae Naturae Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., No. 250, 13 pp.). This recently described Hirudidae species, known from Texas through the Gulf States and the coastal plain north into North Carolina, replaces in this region the well-known *M. decora* (Say) of the northern United States and southern Canada. The specimens were approximately the same size, the larger measuring 60 mm long by 5 mm in greatest diameter, which agrees closely with the dimensions given by Moore.

The leech's predilection for secluded crannies, probably correlated with their search of the softer tissues as favorable feeding sites, is responsible for their being found in such unusual locations as the outer portals of the different body systems (nasopharynx, anus, external auditory canal, urogenital sinus of both sexes) of man and other animals. Due to their remarkable ability to distend, being unrivaled except by octopi, leeches can enter ducts of almost unbelievably small diameter.