

News and Notes

GUAM RECORD OF THE FRESHWATER MEDUSA *CRASPEDACUSTA SOWERBYI* LANKESTER.¹ Three medusae of *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* Lankester (8, 11, and 12 mm in diameter) were collected at approximately 1100 hrs in Fena Lake, Guam, on May 23, 1970. They were taken in a plankton tow sampling the water between the surface and 1 m, from 50 m north of the Imong River influent to the mouth of Almogosa River bay. In addition to the three jellyfish, 109 cladocera (*Latonopsis australis*), 28 copepods (*Mesocyclops leuckarti*), 71 ostracods, 3 freshwater shrimp larvae, and 1 turbellarian were filtered from 169,000 liters. Fewer than 10 phytoplankters were observed, all of them chlorococcalian algae.

The dam forming Fena Lake was completed

in 1952, impounding a mass of water 3.2 km long, 0.3 km average and 0.7 km maximum width. The deepest point is 27 m about 100 m southwest of the spillway which is 33.8 m above mean sea level. Records of the Fena Water Treatment Plant Laboratory indicate that total hardness never exceeds 200 ppm and that pH ranges between 7.0 and 8.5. They also suggest year-round thermal and chemical stratification allowing the lake to be classified as oligomictic (Hutchinson, 1957). At the time we collected *C. sowerbyi*, water temperature at 1 m was 31°C, a Secchi disk was visible to 3 m at the mouth of Almogosa River bay, and the lake surface was down to 31 m above mean sea level.

C. sowerbyi is listed by Kramp (1961) as occurring in mainland U. S. A., Canada,

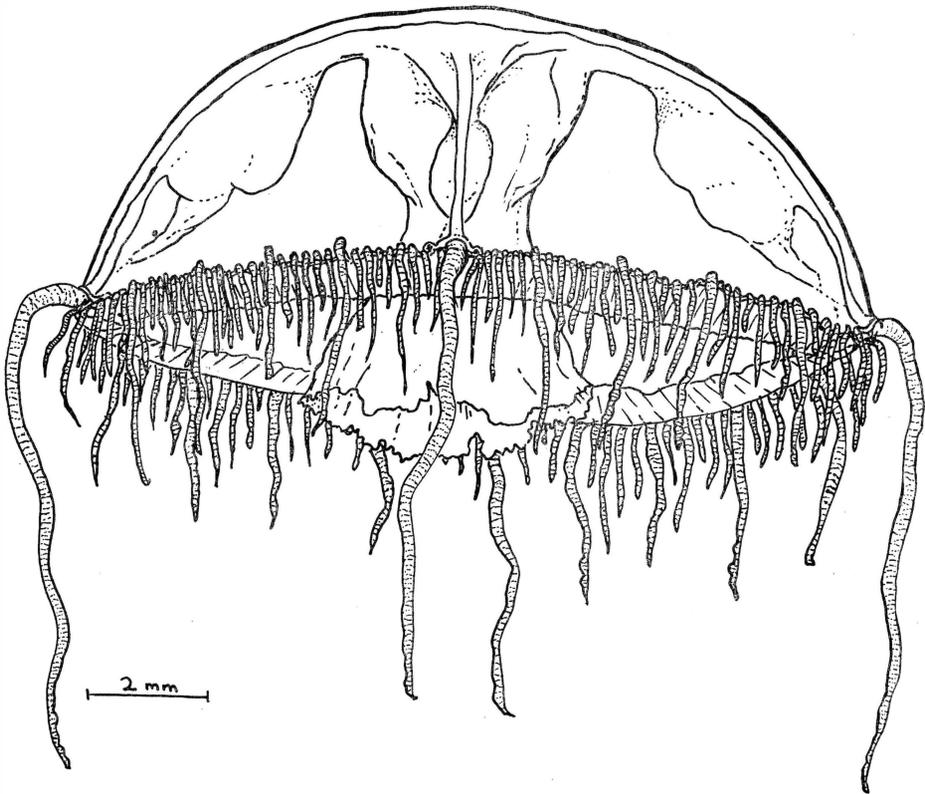


Fig. 1. *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* Lankester drawn from the preserved Fena Lake material.

¹ Contribution No. 11, The Marine Laboratory, University of Guam.

Panama, South America, Europe, Russia, China, Japan, Australia, Taiwan, and the state of Hawaii (U. S. A.). Berry and Dhaliwal (1961) report it from Malaya.

Specimens have been deposited with the Division of Biosciences and Marine Studies of the University of Guam.

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TWO NONFATAL SHARK ATTACKS IN THE TRUK DISTRICT, EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS.¹ Shark attacks in Micronesia are believed to be far more common than previously reported. This far flung multi-island area falls under the administrative jurisdiction of the Trust Territory of the United States. Most of the indigenous peoples of the area make a subsistence living by fishing, supplemented by limited agriculture. Their primary source of protein is from their fishing. As a result, they spend a great deal of time on and in the waters around their home island reefs and lagoons. These activities

¹ Contribution No. 13, The Marine Laboratory, University of Guam.

frequently bring them in contact with a number of species of potentially dangerous sharks that abound in tropical waters.

For the most part, this hardy breed of men and women show respect but little outright fear of sharks and have been observed on numerous occasions spearing fishes in the presence of sharks. They have a basic knowledge of which species constitute the greatest danger to them and a rather profound understanding of shark behavior. As will be discussed in one of the two cases below they are often aware of when an individual shark's behavior shifts from a "patrolling" to an "attack" mode. One moment they are spearing fishes among the sharks and in the next they are scrambling to safety.

Dr. Charles Jones, M. D., Chief Surgeon at Truk Hospital estimated an average of at least one attack every three months (personal communication). He suspects that there are far more attacks that go unreported. The inherent toughness of these island people and their frequent isolation both contribute to the failure of more shark attack victims to seek medical aid.

Attack in the Truk Lagoon. The Trust Territory Division of Marine Resources has at present a series of "Starfish Control Teams" operating in each District. These teams are made up of Micronesian divers and were formed in response to the recent epidemic of the coral-destroying crown-of-thorns starfish, *Acanthaster planci*. It is the responsibility of these teams to seek out and destroy, by formalin injection, large aggregations of the starfish. On September 28, 1970, one such team was working inside the barrier reef on the east side of Truk Lagoon when an attack occurred. The team of three men was diving in 34 m. of water from a boat anchored between Boquet Is. and Eli Kanibu Is. The lagoon bottom slopes steeply at this point from the barrier toward the center of the lagoon. Substratum is primarily *Halimeda* sand with a few scattered coral mounds one to two meters high. Water temperature was 29.2°C, the sea was calm, water clear, and light trade winds were blowing. Cloud cover was 5/10 or less.

The attack occurred at 10 a.m. and the victim was Mike Urumai, a 43-year-old Trukese male