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# FIRST RECORD OF THE LEAST BROOK LAMPREY, *OKKELBERGIA AEPYPTERA*, (PISCES: PETROMYZONIDAE) FROM ILLINOIS

Fred C. Rohde
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Institute of Marine Sciences
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

## Abstract

The first record of the least brook lamprey, *Okkelbergia aepyptera*, from Illinois is presented. Meristic and morphometric characters are given. The least brook lamprey should be added to the State's rare and endangered species list.

The range of the least brook lamprey, *Okkelbergia aepyptera* (Abbott), is from southeastern Missouri to western Pennsylvania south to Arkansas and Georgia, and on the Atlantic slope from Maryland to North Carolina (Raney, 1941, 1952; Pflieger, 1971; Buchanan, 1973; Rohde et al., 1974). Data on the first record of this species from Illinois are presented. Use of the generic name *Okkelbergia*, rather than the traditional *Lampetra*, follows recommendations of Hubbs and Potter (1971). Five other lampreys have been recorded from Illinois (Smith, 1965).

A gravid female was collected in Big Creek, 4.8 km S of Karber's Ridge, Hardin County on 19 March 1971 (INHS 1091). This stream is a direct tributary of the Ohio River. In the vicinity of Illinois, *O. aepyptera* has been reported from Lick Creek, Orange County, Indiana, some 113 km northeast of the Illinois locality (Creaser, 1939); from Whippoorwill Creek, Logan County, Kentucky, some 147 km to the southeast (Clay, 1975); and from a tributary of Big Creek, Iron County, Missouri, some 204 km to the west (Pflieger, 1971). The discovery of the Illinois locality nicely fills the gap that existed between the previously known localities.

Meristic and morphometric characters (expressed as thousandths of total length) were as follows: myomeres, 60; total length, 147 mm, tail length, 265; trunk length, 551; branchial length, 99; prebranchial length, 97; snout length, 59; disc length, 37; body depth, 81; second dorsal fin height, 52; eye diameter, 19. These values compare favorably with those given by Rohde et al. (1976). Some pigment was present along the notochord in the caudal fin and extended slightly onto the fin.

An additional specimen, apparently referrable to *O. aepyptera*, was taken in Big Grand Pierre Creek, 3.2 km SE of Herod, Pope County, Illinois

on 22 August 1973 (INHS 1697). This stream is also tributary to the Ohio River. The specimen is an ammocoete (26 mm TL) and, except for slightly more pigmentation on the upper lip, fits the characters given by Vladykov (1950) for ammocoetes of O. aepyptera.

Despite extensive collecting by personnel of the Illinois Natural History Survey and others throughout the state, the lack of specimens indicates that O. aepyptera is apparently scarce in Illinois and should be placed on the State's rare and endangered species list. Additional collecting in the region may locate more populations.

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