

CORRESPONDENCE

A CURLED OCTOPUS, *ELEDONE CIRRHOSA* STRANDED IN CORK HARBOUR

Sir,—I wish to advise the stranding of a Curled Octopus *Eledone cirrhosa* at Fountainstown, Co. Cork, a small bay on the western edge of Cork Harbour.

This was found by a young school-boy, Master Penrose Hosford, on Sunday, 11th March, and was presumably a victim of the very severe storm which struck the coast the preceding week.

The specimen was ten inches in overall length, and with the exception of one arm being severed half way of its length, was in perfect condition. It was dead when found.—Yours, etc.

LESLIE S. ATKINS.

Andreas, Rosebank Park, Douglas Road, Cork.

ZOOLOGICAL NOTES

SPIDERS INTRODUCED WITH FRUIT TO N. IRELAND DURING 1961

Belfast Museum has received about 20 specimens of foreign spiders found in N. Ireland during 1961. These were all collected from bananas and almost all are of West African origin. The specimens were sent to the British Museum (Natural History) for identification.

Mr D. J. Clark of the Natural History Museum has made the following determinations.

1. *Torania variata* Pocock (Eusparassidae)

We have had about 16 specimens during the year. Three of these were females with cocoons from which the eggs hatched. It is native of West Africa.

2. *Torania scutata* Pocock (Eusparassidae)

1 specimen female. 15th May, 1961.

This is quite a rare species imported with bananas from West Africa.

3. *Scodra* sp. (Theraphosidae)

1 specimen, immature. 22nd November, 1961.

This was an immature specimen and further identification was not possible. It is one of the tree-living "Bird eating Spiders" of West Africa.

4. *Heterothele* Karsch (Theraphosidae)

1 specimen 7th September, 1961.

This was a small black spider which was difficult to identify with certainty and has been donated to the British Museum (Natural History).

5. *Olios sancti-vincenti* Simon (Eusparassidae)

1 specimen 8th March, 1961.

This is a spider from the West Indies.

It is interesting that no specimens were received of another commonly imported species *Heteropoda venatoria* although we have a specimen in our collection from a previous year.

M. FORSYTH.

Museum and Art Gallery, Belfast, 9.

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING, *ONOS TRICIRRATUS* (BLOCH), SE OF DINGLE HARBOUR

The recent capture of a very large Three Bearded Rockling, *Onos tricirratu*s (Bloch) may be worthy of record. This fish was caught by Mr Brendan O'Flaherty, skipper of the "Ros Muilt", while trawling four miles south-east of Dingle harbour on 6th December, 1961. It measured 19.2 inches overall and weighed 2 lb 1½ oz on arrival at the Fisheries Laboratory. It may have weighed 2 lb 3 oz or so, when caught. The fin ray count was: 2nd Dorsal 56, Pectorals 17, Ventrals 7, Anal 49.

This fish is the second largest of this species recorded for Irish waters. The largest is that recorded by Thompson (*Natural History of Ireland*, IV, 186, 1856), who says: "In Dr R. Ball's collection is a specimen from Youghal, 20 inches in length". Kennedy (*The Sea Angler's Fishes*, 1954, p. 338) states that this species attains a length of 20 inches, and that he has seen numerous examples of 10 to 17 inches. Schnakenbeck (*Faune Ichthyologique de l'Atlantique*