

## Stomach Contents and Early Parasitic Infestation in the Marsh Tern (*Chlidonias leucopareia*).

By D. W. Brummitt, M.B., B.S.

On January 15, 1938, on a lagoon on "Conmurra," about twenty-five miles from Robe, S.E., S.A., a flock of fifty Marsh Terns were seen feeding. The birds worked slowly against the wind, continuously dipping and rising—occasionally one would go right to the water, skim the surface, then rise up again to the flock flying about ten feet above the water. The birds kept close together until they had worked right across the lagoon. They then broke up, flew to the other side, reformed, and commenced again. A specimen was obtained, but was too badly damaged for skinning and sexing. The stomach, although punctured, was complete and was stuffed full with the food the birds were eating. The stomach contents were examined by Professor Harvey Johnston, M.A., D.Sc. The bird was found to have been feeding on the larvae of a Dragon-fly, *Austrolestes* (probably *A. cingulatus*). The adult of this is a small slender Dragon-fly with a black body and clear wings with a single black dot on each wing.

In the stomach were some newly-hatched larval forms of an unidentified trematode, which may have hatched from the Dragon-fly larvae, but a microscopic dissection of forty of these failed to reveal any trace of the parasite.

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