

SOME HABITS OF LIMAX MAXIMUS

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One evening in early October of 1917, while the writer was an instructor in biology in the Salem, Indiana, High School, his attention was called by Mr. E. D. Williams to the position of two slugs. The tail of the front slug was touching the head of the rear slug immediately between the protruding tentacles. They had been following each other for some time in the position illustrated in the accompanying pen sketch. In order to take a picture of them, a smooth pine board was placed in their path. They crawled upon the board still maintaining the same position. It was so late in the evening, however, that a "snap shot" could not be taken and a timed exposure was ruined due to their movements.

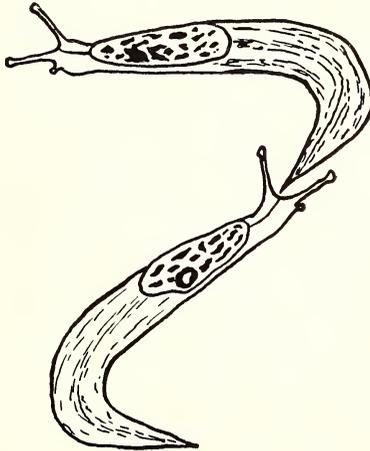


Fig. 1. *Limax maximus* L. (?) as observed in their trailing position.

The writer then separated them a little distance. In a very short time they were again as illustrated. Time and again they were separated, the distance being increased each time. Each time they resumed their former position. This process of separating them and of their resuming the trailing continued for about a half hour. They were then placed about two feet from each other. This time each drew up into a little ball and no amount of molestation could induce them to move. Whether this failure was due to the distance or to their being exhausted is not known.

Observations were made until quite late at night but no slugs were found to be in this position. The next evening, quite late, two were seen in the position, in which they were seen on the former evening.

Observations were continued each evening until winter but no further recurrence of the habit was noticed. In October of the following year, Mr. Williams reported seeing two slugs in the same position. He separated them a few inches and they remained apart.

There is some question in regard to the identity of the species, hence the question mark. The writer had no key nor was one available in the local library. When fully elongated they were about four and one-half inches long. Some specimens were covered with large brownish-black spots, others were a light gray with faint stripes of dark running lengthwise. All were distinctly keeled.