

BLADDERWORT (UTRICULARIA) AS AN "INSECT TRAP"⁽¹⁾

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Since the mosquito campaign in the City of Bangkok was active, the shortage of *Gambusia* (a mosquito larva-eating fish) was reflected, through incessant demand, at the Division of Fisheries. I therefore thought of some substitutes for this fish. Last November Nai Rob Nilkuha brought me some bladderwort, found in a rice-field at Sai Yai, Amphur Bang Boa Tong. I asked him to try this plant with some mosquito larvae and minute crustaceans. He observed that its numerous bladders captured these minute organisms. Some of the plant was given to Dr. Arno Viehoveer, of the Department of Science, who observed that mosquito larvae were caught in the plant's death traps.

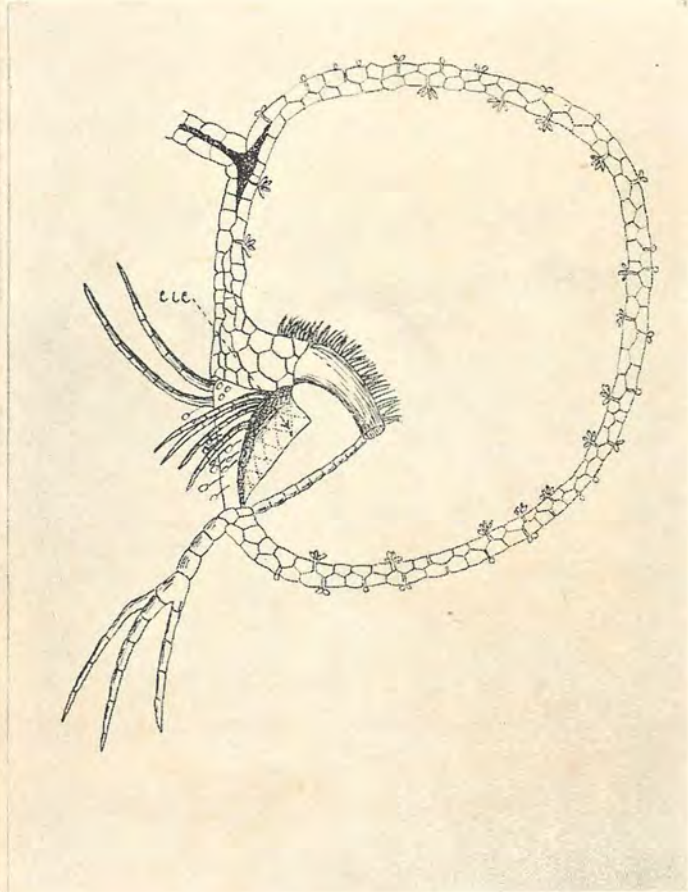
The plant is called Sarai Khao Neo (สาหร่ายข้าวเหนียว) and is common in rice-fields (during the flood season), ditches and swamps. At present its distribution is reported as found in the north and central plain of Thailand. The specimen, collected from Sai Yai, was found in clear water of Ph. 7-7. 5.

(1) Presented December 15th before the Natural History Section.



L. L.

Bladderwort (*Utricularia*) with large Bladder
approx. 2 × nat. size.



Section through Insect Trapping Bladder—
(Redrawn from Sachs).

