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Castagnolo et al 1975

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THE REPRODUCTIVE CYCLE AND THE GLOCHIDIUM OF ANODONTA CYGNEA L. FROM LAGO TRASIMENO (CENTRAL ITALY)

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I. INTRODUCTION

The genus *Anodonta* is well represented in the fresh waters of Italy. Notwithstanding the large populations and the facility of collecting specimens, very few data are available regarding the biology and ecology of these bivalves.

In the hope of filling this gap and of obtaining reliable data for a systematic review of this difficult group (cf. ALZONA, 1971), we have focused our attention on some populations living in the river Po (near the delta) and in lake Trasimeno. These localities seem to be highly satisfactory for our purposes because of the abundance of specimens at various stages of growth that can be gathered there. This seem to be a clear demonstration that in such localities the life cycle of *Anodonta* still follows a regular pattern.

Here are reported the results of the study of the reproductive cycle of *Anodonta cygnea* L. (*Anodonta piscinalis* Auct.) in lake Trasimeno as

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