

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

26 March 1969

Mr. Phillip H. Baker
Lahontan Fisheries Management Unit
P. O. Box 73
Tahoe City, California 95730

Dear Mr. Baker:

In examining the planarian material collected in the Lake Tahoe area in 1967 and 1968, I found a species which is rather puzzling to me. It was collected in Taylor Creek which is the outflow of Fallen Leaf Lake. The species was immature at the time of the collection and therefore could not be identified immediately. After culturing some specimens for several months in the laboratory, they developed reproductive organs (on which the taxonomy of these worms is based). The planarian turned out to be an eastern species, so far known only from the Atlantic coast west as far as Wisconsin and Tennessee.

I wonder if you have access to the records of past fish stocking in the Tahoe area, particularly in Taylor Creek, with fish from eastern or mid-western states. At such an occasion the planarian species could easily have been introduced to your area. Any information you could give me on this question will be greatly appreciated.

Work on my planarian study is progressing satisfactorily. I shall be glad to send you any future publications concerning my western collections.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Roman Kenk

Roman Kenk
Room W-215A, M.N.H.

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Region II, P. O. Box 19176
1001 Jedsmith Drive
Sacramento, California 95819

April 3, 1969

Dr. Roman Kenk
Room W-215A, M.N.H.
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C., 20560

Dear Dr. Kenk:

Thank you for your interesting letter regarding your planarian find at Taylor Creek. It does seem very odd that a species found only in the east coast heretofore is indigenous to the Tahoe area. I agree that there is a good possibility that it was introduced with fish plants.

Lake Tahoe was stocked in the 1890's with lake trout from the Great Lakes area by both California and Nevada Departments of Fish and Game. As I do not have ready access to the old planting records, I cannot say from exactly where they were obtained however. Other eastern trout species, i.e., brown and brook trout have also been planted in the Tahoe area, but I do not know offhand if these plants were made directly from eastern waters.

Unfortunately, I cannot give you any specific planting data at this time as I am being transferred from Tahoe and am trying to finish up the tremendous backlog of work I have accumulated. Our files will be made available to you at our Region II office in Sacramento if you wish more specific information. The address there is: 1001 Jedsmith Drive, Sacramento, California.

It has been very interesting and a real pleasure working with you on your project. If at any time you need additional help at Lake Tahoe you can contact Bill Hart, the local warden there, or our Region II office.

Sincerely,

Phil Baker
Asst. Fishery Biologist

July 21 10 50 P.M. - Sacramento