

OCEANOGRAPHY

Gulf Stream Probe Set for This Summer

► THE GULF STREAM, which flows like a river 40 miles wide and 2,000 feet deep through the Atlantic Ocean, will be closely surveyed by scientists this summer.

By understanding more of the forces and patterns of this vast ocean river, scientists will be able to come closer to predicting adjacent changes in the weather and fishing conditions, said Dr. Harris B. Stewart Jr., chief oceanographer of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. Department of Commerce.

The oceanographic program, slated to get underway in July, will take at least a year to complete, Dr. Stewart told members of the Explorers Club at their 61st annual dinner in New York. Scientists will be participating from the Coast and Geodetic Survey; U.S. Weather Bureau; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass.; University of Rhode Island, Kingston; Lamont Geological Observatory of Columbia University; and the University of Miami.

• Science News Letter, 87:271 April 24, 1965

Nature Note

Gynandromorphs

► A BUTTERFLY THAT is a gynandromorph may look as if two different insects had been split down the middle and one half of each pasted together. Such is not the case, however.

Instead, this striking variation is caused by a split much earlier in the insect's life.

Particular kinds of hermaphrodites, or animals having both male and female reproductive organs, gynandromorphs are caused by a faulty splitting of sex chromosomes, or hereditary material. They are also called sex mosaics.

Once an abnormal division has taken place, the resulting cell continues to divide and produces cells of its own kind. Thus, male cells arise in a formerly female insect or female cells in a male insect.

The gynandromorph may be half one sex and half the other if the faulty division occurs early in life.

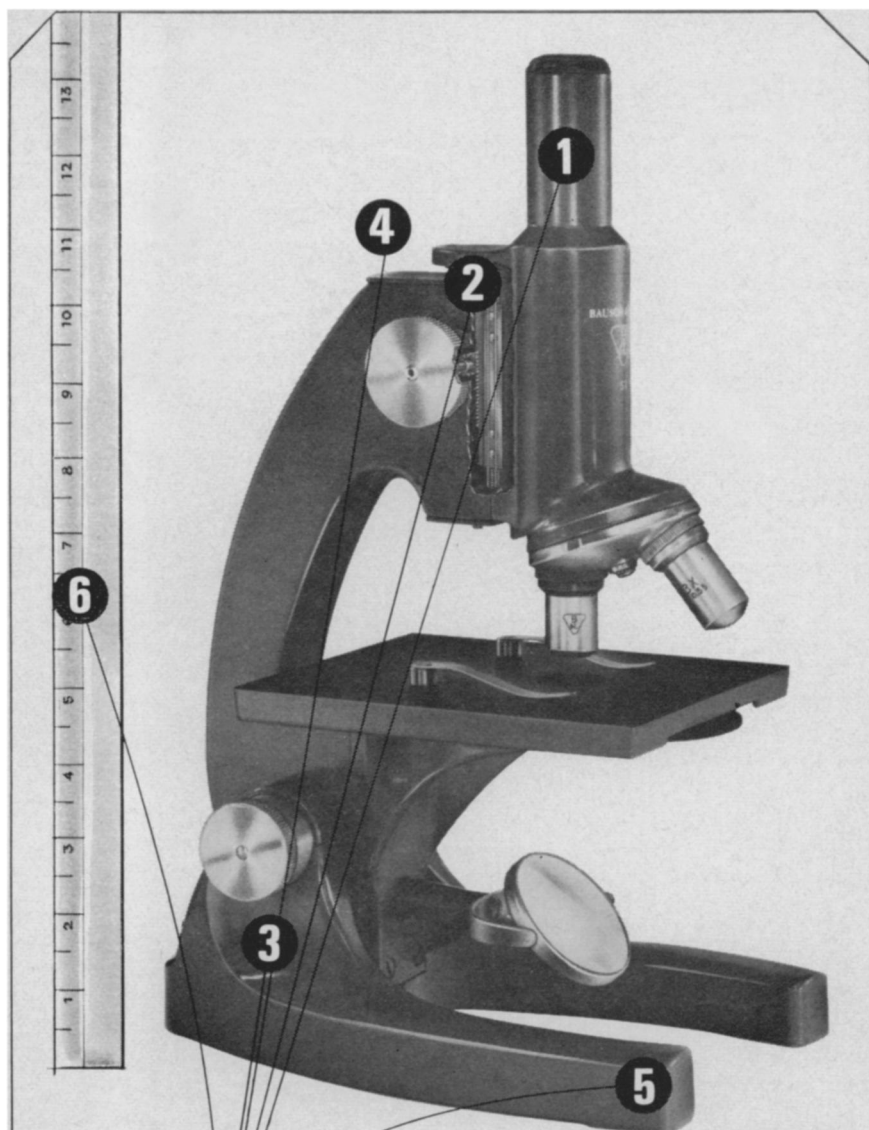
When the split divides the body into two sides of opposite sexes, this is called bilateral gynandromorphy.

On the other hand, only spots of opposite sex markings may be present if the faulty division occurred late in the insect's development.

In the case of the California Dog-face butterfly, the species author, Boisduval, gave a distinct name for each sex of the butterfly. Had he seen a gynandromorph, he would probably not have made the mistake.

Gynandromorphy occurs in ants, flies, wasps and bees, also, but because of the butterfly's colorful markings, this deviation is more easily recognized in the butterfly by the untrained eye.

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