

Existence of such mucous secreting segment was observed by previous investigators¹⁻³ in sexually mature sticklebacks *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, which is used to glue together algal filaments in construction of nests.

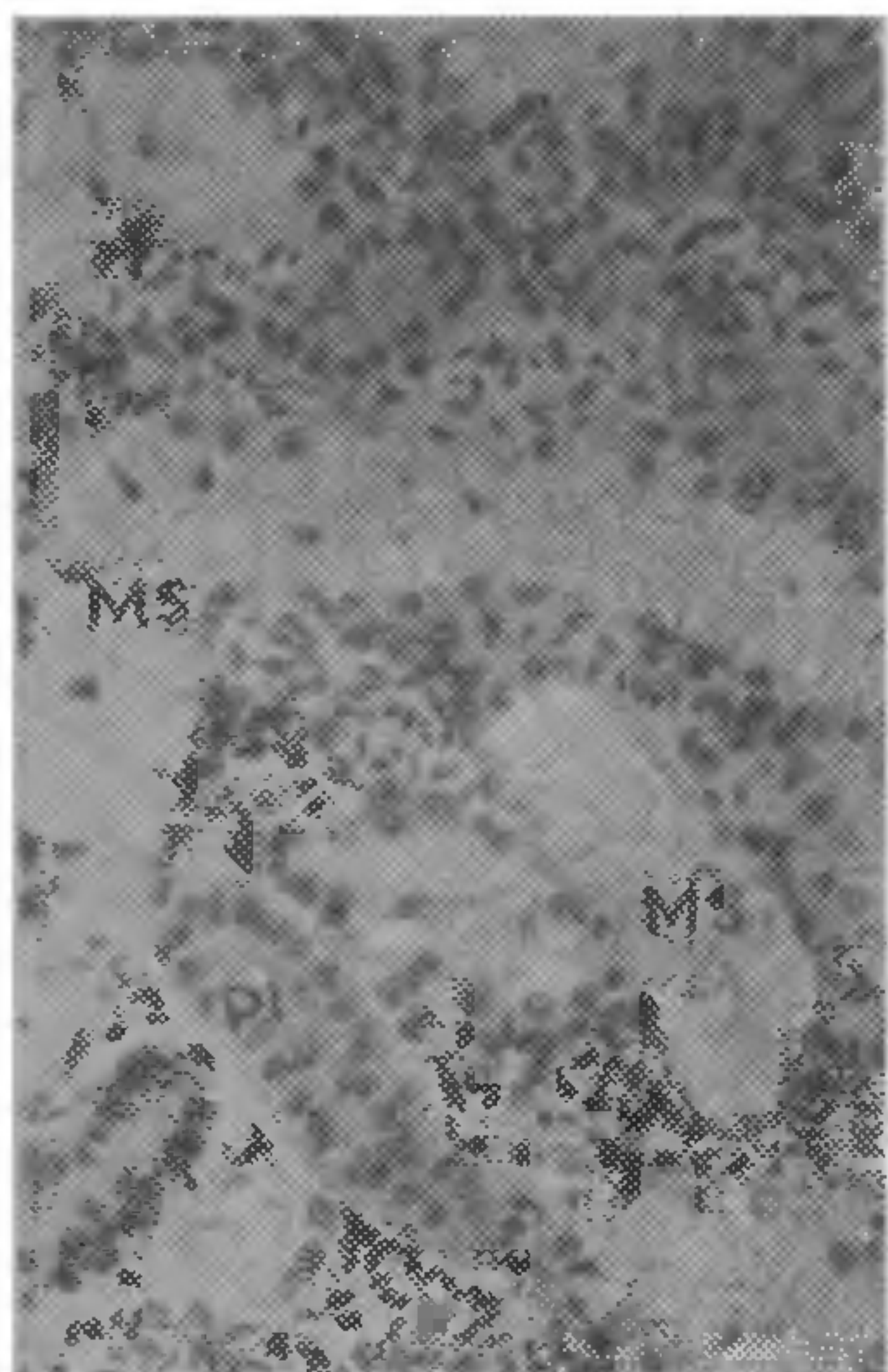


FIG. 1. Photomicrograph of the kidney of *D. rerio* showing mucous secreting segment.

Abbreviations used. MS = Mucous secreting segment, PI = Proximal one segment.

In female sticklebacks which do not take part in nest building this peculiar mucous secreting segment is absent. It is interesting to note that during the present investigation on *D. rerio* such segment was encountered in both male and female specimens. Further, in *D. rerio* no nest building habit was observed.

Such specialised segment of nephron is also present in reptiles, where the so-called sexual segment of the adult kidney produces a copious secretion which serves as a vehicle for the sperm⁴. But this possibility does not exist in the present case as there is no connection between the sperm and urinary duct throughout their respective course. Hence, the present authors are of the opinion that it is difficult to attribute any definite functional significance to the mucous secreting segment of *D. rerio*, though its role in protecting the portion from any type of cellular injury by secreting excess mucous cannot be ignored.

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CONFERENCES ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, LONDON

1. 9th to 11th April 1979—The 11th National Atomic and Molecular Physics Conference will be held at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics, University of Liverpool, U.K.
2. 11th and 12th April 1979—Workshop on Tunable Laser Spectroscopy: has been designed as an informal workshop bringing together contributions from those concerned with the development of tunable lasers and those interested in their application.
3. 28th and 29th June 1979—The Sixth Annual Conference of the Plasma Physics Group of the

Institute of Physics will be held at the University of Sussex, U.K.

4. 18th to 20th July 1979—The 3rd European Conference on Internal Friction and Ultrasonic Attenuation in Solids will be held at the University of Manchester, U.K.

Further particulars for item No. 1 can be obtained from Dr. J. R. Gibson, Conference Secretary, Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics, University of Liverpool, P. O. Box 147, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool L69 3BX, U.K. and for item Nos. 2, 3 and 4 from The Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX, U.K.