

## "Living drift bottles" used in study of ocean currents

**April 14, 1960**

Marine creatures that look like tiny, transparent beer kegs have been used as "living drift bottles" in a study of the ocean currents off California conducted by two scientists at The University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Called *Doliolum denticulatum*, the animals rarely grow more than three-eighths of an inch long. They are plentiful in the central oceans, and also off Baja California.

Leo D. Berner, Jr., biologist, and Joseph L. Reid, Jr., oceanographer, have discovered that when the water is as warm as it has been during the past three years, the doliolids are also found as far north as San Francisco.

The creatures can swim only feebly. The trip from Point Conception, the northernmost point they have been found during cool years, to San Francisco, would be the equivalent of a baby's crawling 25,000 miles. Their presence so far north thus offers further evidence on the differences in prevailing current patterns during periods of warm and cool water.

The work on doliolids is a part of Scripps' share of the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations.