

the Interlake region and to the respective curators of those herbaria cited above.

<sup>1</sup> ARGUS, G.W. and K.M. PRYER. 1990. Rare vascular plants in Canada — Our natural heritage. Can. Mus. of Nature, Ottawa. In press.

<sup>2</sup> HOLMGREN, P.K., W. KEUKEN and E.K. SCHOFIELD. 1981. Index herbariorum. Part 1. The herbaria of the world. Seventh edition. W. Junk, Boston.

PRYER, K.M., D.M. BRITTON and J. McNEILL. 1983. Systematic studies in the genus *Gymnocarpium* Newman in North America. *Am. J. Bot.* 70:60.

<sup>4</sup> SARVELA, J. 1978. A synopsis of the fern genus *Gymnocarpium*. *Annales Botanici Fennici* 15:101-106.

<sup>5</sup> SARVELA, J., D.M. BRITTON and K.M. PRYER. 1981. Studies on the *Gymnocarpium robertianum* complex in North America. *Rhodora* 83:421-431.

<sup>6</sup> SCOGGAN, H.J. 1957. Flora of Manitoba. *Nat. Mus. of Can. Bull.* No. 140, Ottawa.

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## SMALL MAMMALS AS PREY FOR BROOK TROUT

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In 1975 and 1976 the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources conducted studies on sea-run Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) in Nine-mile Creek, tributary of the Limestone River which in turn enters the Nelson River some 90 km inland from Hudson Bay. Fifty-five of the trout stomachs examined contained food items of which 8 contained small mammals including 7 voles, (three *Thrichionomys* spp., four *Microtus* spp.) and one shrew (*Sorex* spp.).<sup>1</sup>

Brook Trout from the Gods River near the mouth of the Red Sucker River (49°19'N, 92°30'W) were milked for food items by Department of Natural Resources staff in early September 1989. Four of the fish were examined for food items (G. H. Strate, pers. comm.) One nearly intact meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) was found.

These observations concur with those of Scott and Crossman suggesting that

small mammals may at times provide a food source for some fish species in certain water systems, particularly in more northerly areas where nutrients are scarce and small mammal populations fluctuate considerably.<sup>2</sup>

Several small mammal species will readily swim while predatory fish will strike at any reasonably-sized object travelling through the water. These observations suggest that small mammals are likely more vulnerable to fish predation than is generally thought.

<sup>1</sup> GABOURY, M.N. 1980. The biology of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) populations in the lower Nelson River area, Manitoba. M. Sc. thesis, Univ. of Waterloo, Ont. 138 pp.

<sup>2</sup> SCOTT, W.B. and E.J. CROSSMAN. 1973. Freshwater fishes of Canada. Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Ottawa. 212 pp.