

THE TROPHIC INTERRELATIONSHIPS AND ECOLOGY OF SOME
LITTORAL COMMUNITIES OF LAKE NYASA WITH ESPECIAL
REFERENCE TO THE FISHES, AND A DISCUSSION OF THE
EVOLUTION OF A GROUP OF ROCK-FREQUENTING CICHLIDAE

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

An essential prerequisite to an understanding of the biological economy of any body of water is a knowledge of the ecology and food requirements of the individual species of animals occupying the various habitats which it provides. The present investigation has been directed towards an elucidation of these aspects of the biology of the animals comprising the littoral zone communities of a selected area of Lake Nyasa, at Nkata Bay (Nyasaland), on the western side of the lake, approximately 150 miles from its northern extremity. The selected area included both a rocky and a sandy shore and also a small, swampy, estuarine region. The data obtained from this area have been supplemented by occasional collections and observations made elsewhere.