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A land planarian collected in Utah

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NOTE

A LAND PLANARIAN COLLECTED IN UTAH: On March 13, 1952, a specimen of **Bipalium kewense** Mosely, an interesting turbellarian of the family Bipalidae, was brought to me by Robert Liddiard of Provo, Utah. He found it in a Provo greenhouse in a container of iris rhizomes which he was unpacking for greenhouse planting. On March 19, three other specimens from the same location were found. One of the specimens was carefully collected while two others became damaged. Mr. Liddiard reports that the iris shipments were received October, 1951, and placed in a cool basement cellar room with an approximate temperature of 55° F. They were left there until March 13, 1952 and then removed for planting. The shipment of rhizomes came from an area near Tacoma, Washington.

Bipalium kewense is quite large as compared to **Dugesia tigrina** (**Planaria maculata**) the one commonly used for class room instruction. The latter, however, is an aquatic form. The **Bipalium kewense** presented to me by Mr. Liddiard measured 145 mm. in length.

Land planarians are found in humid habitats and as would be expected, are largely confined to tropical and sub-tropical jungle situations. Some species of terrestrial planarians have become transported from tropical and sub-tropical areas to more temperate regions. The main vehicle of distribution for the land planarians, by man, has apparently been by means of shipments of plants. **B. kewense** has become quite widely distributed throughout the world and generally so in the United States. It is reported from Georgia, Louisiana, Washington D.C., California, New Jersey, Illinois, Ohio, Florida and now Utah.—D Elden Beck, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Brigham Young University.