Photographic Images of Orgone Energy Functions III: The Jellyfish

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The expressive movements of the living organism are determined by the two basic forms of movement of biological orgone energy: pulsation and spinning wave. These same movements have determined the developing complexity from the simpler round metazoan, through gastrulation, to the more elongated organisms. They are structuralized in the autonomic and central nervous systems (Foglia 2005, 2008).

Complex, elongated organisms, however, have retained the tendency to contract their whole body. But incapable of contracting to a spherical form, they take a particular circular body posture where the ends of the organism reach toward each other in a rhythmical way. This third basic movement, identified by Reich in the jellyfish (Reich 1945, pages 390-397), is present everywhere in the living realm, and in the psychic realm expresses nothing else than genital longing. Reich called this movement the *orgasm reflex*. It is a wave of excitation that extends from the center of the body[1] to both ends: the mouth and the genital. In more evolved organisms mouth and genital[2], together with eyes and anus, are erogenous zones; they serve the function of pleasurable contact with the outer world. Of these four zones only the mouth and genital are capable of initiating orgastic convulsion through superimposition. Thus, orgastic convulsion, and with it the release of surplus energy, is possible only through superimposition with another organism, and this is possible only through the mouth (the oral orgasm of newborn babies) and the genital (Baker, page 16).

The appearance of the orgasm reflex during medical orgone therapy is an indication of the dissolution of sufficient armor, and the sign of the ongoing re-establishment of full orgastic potency and genitality.

[1]Herein lies the great celiac or solar plexis.

[2]The genitals are embryological and phylogenetic derivations of the cloaca, the primitive anus (Baker, page 16; Moore, pages 288-292).

In fact, armoring's "ultimate function […] is to prevent the [total] orgasm reflex from taking place" (Reich 1945, page 369) and the function of medical orgone therapy is to dissolve "the armorings in such a manner that finally all biological reflexes and movements become united in the total orgasm reflex and lead to sensations of orgonotic current in the genital. This makes possible the establishment of orgastic potency" (Reich 1945, page 128). As we have seen in the ameba, the worm and the jellyfish, the three basic movements of living organisms, *pulsation, spinning wave* and the *orgasm reflex*, have determined the function and structure of one of the most developed organisms on Earth, the human being.[3]

In the jellyfish *Chrysaora hysoscella* ("compass jellyfish") the pulsatory element is evident in its typical dance-like movement. This movement, which accounts for its locomotion as well as its feeding, is characterized by the alternating enlargement and restriction of the belt margin with inclusion and expulsion of water, causing a "jet propulsion" type of movement (Alexander). The red circles show the expansion (11a) and contraction (11b) of the belt, the red arrow (11c) shows the forward locomotion.

Figure 11a

Figure 11b

[3]See Foglia, A. 2005. Photographic Images of Orgone Energy Functions I: The Ameba. *Journal of Orgonomy* 39(2) and Foglia, A. 2008. Photographic Images of Orgone Energy Functions II: The Worm. *Journal of Orgonomy* 42(1).

Figure 11c

Drawing the movement of the jellyfish along its sagittal axis, however, Reich showed it to be identical to a particular movement occurring in other elongated organisms. In its pulsating movement the jellyfish tends to assume a spherical form during contraction (12a, b) and does so in a rhythmical, convulsive way (Reich 1942, page 331). This was revealed to be a new form of movement in higher organisms, a form never described before and still not recognized: *the orgasm reflex.*

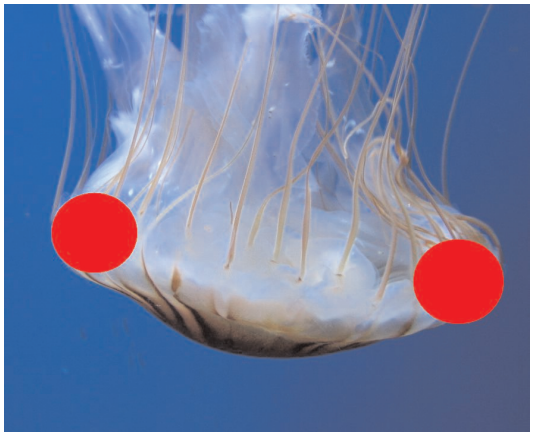

Figure 12a

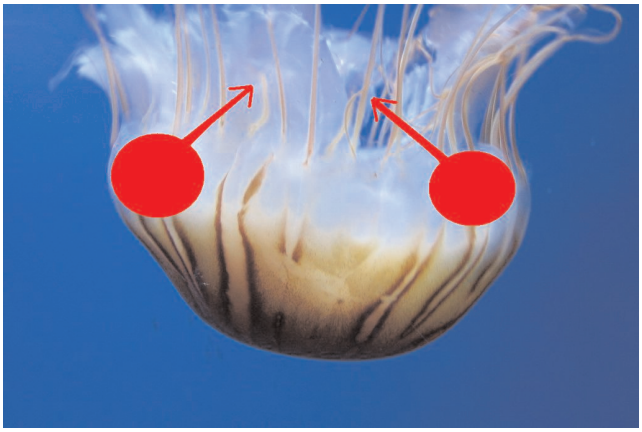

Figure 12b

Circular body posture in elongated organisms as an evolutionary development of contraction to a spherical form is well known. *Coiling*, for example, as an "antipredator mechanism" can develop into extraordinary behaviors (Garcia-Paris); here in a larva of *Coenorhabditis elegans* (DCI 320x)(13a). Coiling as a "resting posture" is frequent in nature, here in the seabird *Anser canagicus* (13b). This particular circular body posture in the common wasp *Vespula vulgaris* (13c), however, is not static but rhythmical and convulsive, the *orgasm reflex.*

Figure 13a

Figure 13b

Figure 13c

Orgasm reflex during medical orgone therapy (14a, b). With each expiration the upper part of the body tends toward the pelvis, which in turn moves gently forward. In fact, "in the orgasm the organism constantly tries to bring together the embryologically important mouth and anus" (Reich 1945, page 367). Baker states that it is suppressed in most humans (Baker, page xviii).

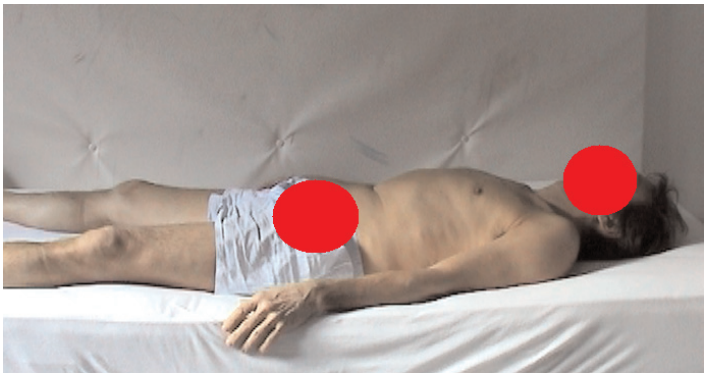

Figure 14a

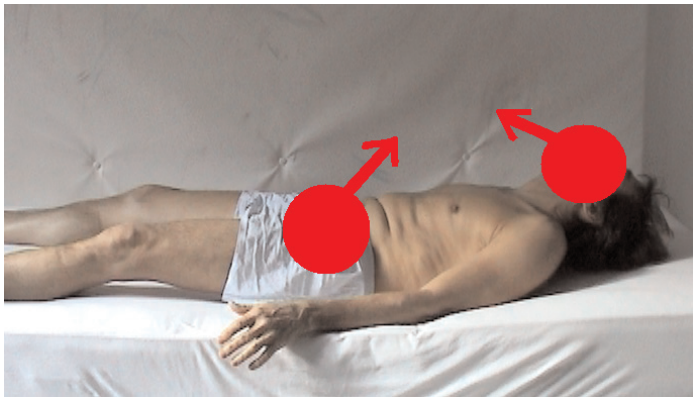

Figure 14b

Arc de cercle ("arch of a circle") in a patient expressing "No" during medical orgone therapy (15). First described by Charcot in 1877 (Charcot, page 435) as a major symptom of hysteria, it is an extreme opisthotonos ("arched back"). Reich (1942, page 344; 1945, page 365) recognized it as "the exact opposite of the orgasm reflex and […] the prototype of the defense against sexuality" (Reich 1942, page 350). Note that mouth and genital are at their greatest distance. Arc de cercle often anticipates the appearance of the orgasm reflex in medical orgone therapy.

Figure 15

The disruption of the orgasm reflex gives rise to convulsive disorders such as epilepsy and tics. Here is seen a convulsive discharge of a mixture of motoric and vocal tics and obsessive rituals typical of Tourette's Syndrome during medical orgone therapy (16). Tics are described as "split off parts of the orgasm reflex" (Reich 1945, page 310).

Figure 16

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