

RESULTS

The heart in *Breviceps* lies almost entirely to the right of the midline, immediately caudal to the larynx and to the origins of the hyoglossus muscles from the posterior horns of the hyoid. The short (0.5mm) bulbus arteriosus arises from the base of the ventricle to the right of its midline and extends to the left, to divide into the right and left truncus arteriosus (Fig. 1). The left truncus continues to the left, ventral to the atria, passing caudal to the larynx and turning rostrally into the left axilla. The right truncus grooves the right atrium ventrally as it passes directly rostrally between the liver, laterally, and the hyoglossus and larynx, medially. Each truncus, 2mm long and subdivided into three channels from its commencement, gives off the common carotid artery and continues as a short common pulmosystemic trunk which divides into a small pulmocutaneous artery and the aorta. The common carotid artery continues from the truncus directly rostrally for about 3mm, lying lateral to the larynx. It passes dorsal to the insertion of omohyoid and terminates in the carotid labyrinth from which arise the internal and external carotids (Fig. 1).

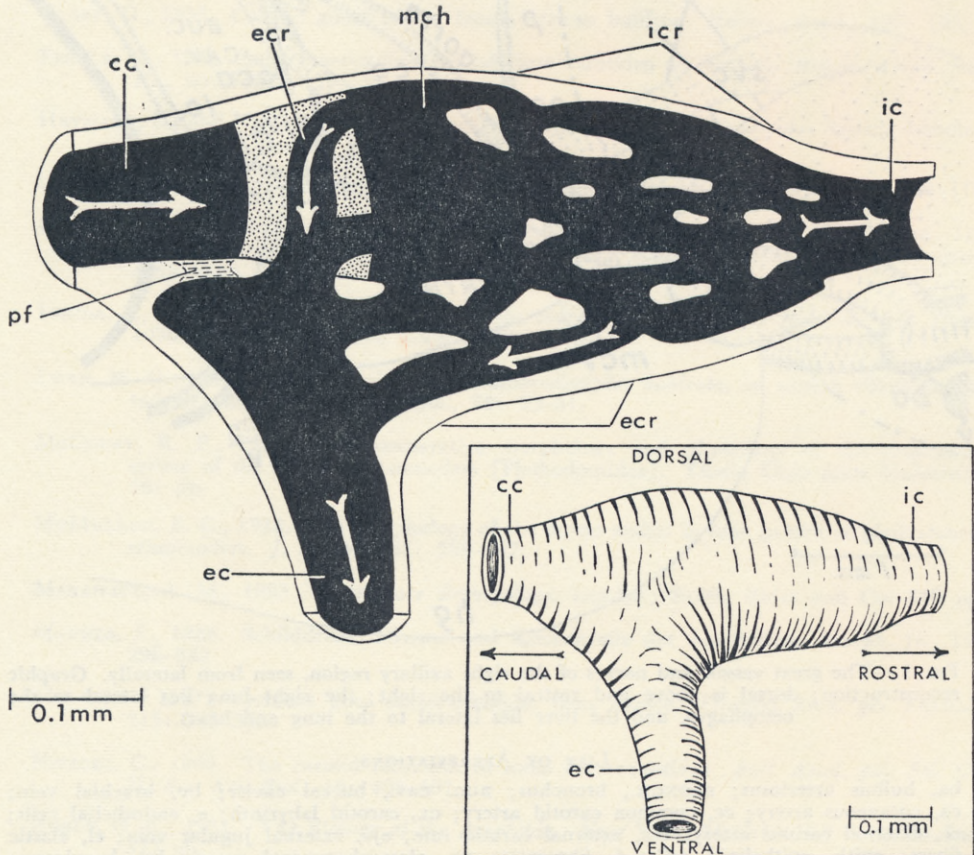


FIG. 2.—A schematic representation of the carotid labyrinth in *Breviceps*, using the conventions of Ishida ('54) and Adams ('58). The common carotid artery (cc), main chamber (mch), external carotid rete (ecr) and external carotid artery (ec), and internal carotid rete (icr) and internal carotid artery (ic) are shown schematically. The white arrows indicate the direction of blood flow. Inset: an external view of the labyrinth, showing its orientation.