

von den Schlangen *Python Molurus* und von den Fischen *Esox Lucius*. Jedoch überall ist es ein Hauptfordernis für einen guten Erfolg, daß die Thiere so frisch wie möglich sind.

Im Anschlusse hieran möchte ich auf die künstlichen Augen bei Fischen und Schlangen hinweisen, da dieselben sehr häufig den natürlichen Verhältnissen nicht entsprechen. Die Pupillen der Schlangen bilden einen schmalen Spalt, welcher in dieser Weise ⊕ das Auge durchsetzt, wogegen die Pupille der künstlichen Augen meist derart ⊙ gestaltet ist. Es ist daher zweckmäßig, einfache Glasaugen ohne Pupille und Iris zu nehmen und dieselben auf der Rückseite in der erforderlichen Weise zu bemalen.

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1st March, 1887. — Prof. Jeffrey Bell read extracts from a communication sent to him by Mr. Edgar Thurston, Superintendent of the Government Central Museum, Madras, containing observations on two species of Batrachians of the genus *Cacopus*. — Mr. O. Salvin (on behalf of Mr. F. D. Godman) exhibited a pair of a large and rare Butterfly (*Ornithoptera Victoriae*), the male of which had been hitherto undescribed. These specimens were obtained at the end of May 1886 by Mr. C. M. Woodford, at North-West Bay, Maleita Island, one of the Solomon group. — Mr. E. B. Poulton, F.Z.S., read a paper containing an account of his experiments on the protective value of colour and markings in Insects (especially in Lepidopterous larvæ) in their relation to Vertebrata. It was found that conspicuous insects were nearly always refused by birds and lizards, but that they were eaten in extreme hunger: hence the unpleasant taste failed as a protection under these circumstances. Further, conspicuous and unpalatable insects, although widely separated, tended to converge in colour and pattern, being thus more easily seen and remembered by their enemies. In the insects protected by resembling their surroundings it was observed that mere size might prevent the attacks of small enemies. Some such insects were unpalatable, but could not be distinguished from the others. In tracing the inedibility through the stages, it was found that no inedible imago was edible in the larval stage; in this stage therefore the unpleasant taste arose. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.Z.S., read a paper descriptive of the fishes collected by the late Mr. Clarence Buckley in Ecuador. The set of all the species in the collection acquired by the British Museum in 1880 contained a large number of highly interesting and well-preserved specimens. Amongst them were representatives of ten species described as new to science. — Mr. Richard S. Wray, B.Sc., read a note on a vestigial structure in the adult Ostrich representing the distal phalanges of the third digit. — Mr. John H. Poulsonby, F.Z.S., communicated (on behalf of Mr. Andrew Garrett) the second and concluding part of a paper on the Terrestrial Mollusks of the Viti or Fiji Islands. — Mr. Edgar A. Smith gave an account of a small collection of shells from the Loo-Choo Islands made by Mr. H. Pryer, C.M.Z.S. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1887

Band/Volume: [10](#)

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