

Verfasser in dieser schwierigsten, artenreichen Gruppe endlich Klarheit zu schaffen.

Das in fünf Lieferungen erscheinende Werk wird nach seiner Vollendung die umfassendste Arbeit über Wassermilben sein. Nicht nur dem Fachmanne, auch dem Sammler und Liebhaber wird es als unentbehrliches Hilfsmittel zum schnellen und sicheren Bestimmen ihrer Funde dienen, und, in Folge der weiten Verbreitung der Wassermilben, muß es auch den außerdeutschen Hydrachnidologen willkommen sein; es dürften die meisten mitteleuropäischen Hydrachniden darin beschrieben sein.

## II. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

### Zoological Society of London.

March 2nd, 1897.—The Secretary exhibited two specimens of a new Viper, recently discovered by Capt. A. H. McMahon during the recent survey of the Indo-Persian frontier, and named *Eristicophis Macmahoni* (gen. et sp. nov.) by Dr. Alcock. This Snake had been met with only in the sandy portions of the desert between Mushki and Persia, where it was almost impossible to detect its presence, owing to its habit of lying buried in the sand with only its head visible.—A report was read, drawn up by Mr. A. Thomson, the Society's Head-Keeper, on the insects bred in the Insect-house during the year 1896, and a series of the specimens was exhibited.—Mr. Gambier Bolton, F.Z.S., gave an account (illustrated by photographs shown by the oxy-hydrogen light) of a recent visit that he had made to the Bird Islands in Saldanha Bay, South Africa. The photographs illustrated the life of the Black-footed Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) on these islands, showing these birds in groups, nest-building, sitting on their eggs, and moulting. Mr. Bolton also gave an account of the guano- and egg-industry carried on by the Cape Government in the Bird Islands and other adjacent islands.—Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks upon a specimen of a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) with enormously elongated mandibles.—Mr. H. M. Wallis read a paper entitled "The Growth of Hair upon the Human Ear, and its testimony to the Shape, Size, and Position of the Ancestral Organ."—P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

March 16th, 1897.—The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February 1897.—Mr. Sclater called attention to the two specimens of Otters, now living in the Society's Gardens, which had been received from Co. Down, Ireland, last year, and pointed out that they differed in several respects from the Common Otter. The Irish Otter had been separated specifically from *Lutra vulgaris* by Ogilby in 1834, under the name of *Lutra roensis*, and Mr. Sclater thought it was worthy of enquiry whether Ogilby was not right in his views.—Mr. A. Smith Woodward, F.Z.S., gave an account of his recent palæontological tour in Brazil and Argentina, and made remarks on the fossil remains of vertebrated animals that had come under his observation in those countries.—Dr. R. H. Traquair, F.R.S., exhibited and made

remarks upon a new specimen of the supposed fossil Lamprey (*Palaeospondylus Gunni*) from the Old Red Sandstone of Caithness, and read a note on its affinities. — A communication was read from Dr. Robert Collett, F.M. Z.S., on a collection of Mammals made by Mr. Knut Dahl in North and North-west Australia in 1894—96. The collection contained specimens of 34 species, two of which, viz. *Pseudochirus Dahlii* and *Smithopsis nitela*, proved to be new to science. The former species had been described in the 'Zoologischer Anzeiger' for 1895; the latter was characterized in the present paper. — Mr. P. L. Sclater, F.R.S., read a paper "On the Distribution of Marine Mammals." The marine area of the globe was divided into six sea-regions, viz. Arctatlantis, Mesatlantis, Indopelagia, Arctirenica, Mesirenica, and Notopelagia, which corresponded to a certain extent with the six land-regions proposed by Mr. Sclater in 1874. The characteristic Mammals of each Sea-region were pointed out. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., read a paper on a collection of Earthworms from South Africa, belonging to the genus *Acanthodrilus*, which had been made in the Cape Colony by Mr. Purcell, of the South-African Museum, and forwarded to him by Mr. W. L. Sclater. Examples of nine new species were contained in the collection, which fact was of great interest, as previously only one representative of the genus *Acanthodrilus* had been known to exist in South Africa. Mr. Beddard also described a new genus of Earthworms, belonging to the family *Eudrilidae*, from Lagos, West Africa, under the name of *Iridodrilus*. — Dr. Forsyth Major exhibited a series of skulls and photographs of species of the African Bush-Pigs (*Potamochoerus*), and pointed out the characters of a new species from Nyasaland, which he proposed to call *P. Johnstoni*, remarkable for its large size and slender snout. He also showed that the *Nyctichoerus hassana* of Heuglin, from Abyssinia, formed a distinct species of *Potamochoerus*. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

### III. Personal-Notizen.

#### Necrolog.

Am 20. Nov. 1896 starb in Glasgow David Robertson. Er war am 10. Dec. 1806 geboren und sollte, ohne Mittel, Landwirth werden, fieng aber an Medicin zu studieren und wurde schließlich Kaufmann. Sich mit 54 Jahren vom Geschäft zurückziehend widmete er sich nun der lange ersehnten Beschäftigung mit niederen Seethieren. Die Gründung der biologischen Station in Millport auf den Cumbræ-Inseln ist hauptsächlich seiner Energie zu danken. Liebenswürdig und allezeit hilfsbereit wird er seinen vielen Freunden unvergessen bleiben.

Am 7. Februar (26. Jan. a. St.) starb in Moskau A. N. Kortschagin (A. H. Кортягинъ), Conservator des zoolog. Museums der Universität zu Moskau. Der Verstorbene war als Erforscher der Crustaceenfauna des Moskauer Gouvernements bekannt.



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Autor(en)/Author(s): Sclater Philip Lutley

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