

schachte fing ich mit einem Netze drei weitere *Niphargus aquilex*, sowie auch eine Anzahl Ostracoden.

Niphargus a., Ostracoden und Copepoden zeigten alle dieselbe schwach weiße bis durchscheinende Färbung. Die gefangenen Stücke von *N. a.* besitzen eine Länge von 5—8 mm. In bezug auf Telson und 3. Uropodenpaar kann ich schon mitteilen, daß bei allen 4 Tieren die Basis des 3. Uropodenpaares und Telson einander gleiche und konstante Länge haben. Dagegen schwankt das Verhältnis zwischen 1. und 2. Gliede des Außenastes am 3. Uropoden zwischen 3 : 2 und 5 : 2. Der Innenast ist meist $\frac{1}{3}$ so lang wie die Basis. Doch muß ich genauere Erörterungen über den ganzen Fund auf später verschieben.

II. Mitteilungen aus Museen, Instituten usw.

1. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

Abstract of Proceedings, September 25th, 1907. — Mr. North sent for exhibition a set of four eggs of the Plumed Egret, *Mesophyx plumifera* (Gould), with the following note: — “The eggs of *Mesophyx plumifera* here exhibited were taken by Mr. Septimus Robinson on Buckiinguy Station, N.S.W., on the 8th November, 1893. Mr. Robinson reported that he found about a dozen or more nests of this species; they were nearly flat, and scantily formed structures of thin sticks and twigs; and were so small that they were almost concealed by the birds when sitting. They were built in gum, or ‘Humulung’ (*Acacia* sp.?) saplings, standing in water where the Macquarie River had overflowed its banks, and varied in height from seven to twenty feet from the surface of the water, most of them not being higher than twelve feet, and in some saplings were two nests. Each nest contained four eggs, some being fresh, others well advanced in incubation. The eggs are almost true ellipses in form, the shell being close-grained, with fine pittings, otherwise smooth and lustreless. They are of a uniform pale sea green colour, with here and there scattered over the shell almost invisible white limy-incrustations, and measure as follows: — length (A) $1,82 \times 1,32$; (B) $1,81 \times 1,2$; (C) $1,82 \times 1,23$; (D) $1,83 \times 1,29$ inches. Last July, through the kindness of Mr. Charles French, Junr., I was enabled to examine a set of three eggs of the Plumed Egret taken by Mr. J. Ross near Mathoura, N.S.W., in November, 1906. They were similar in shape and colour, but slightly larger than the specimens now exhibited. Although Mr. Robinson took the eggs of the Plumed Egret so many years ago, hitherto, I believe the eggs of this species have remained undescribed.” — 1) On the Genus *Petalura*, with Description of a new Species [Neuroptera: Odonata]. By R. J. Tillyard, M.A., F.E.S. — This remarkable isolated genus is probably a relic of an ancient Australian odonate fauna, which is now being steadily displaced by an Asiatic invasion. *P. gigantea* Leach, occurs round Sydney and on the Blue Mountains, and was described nearly a hundred years ago. It is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the wings. The new species, *P. ingentissima*, is found in Northern Queensland. It is the largest dragonfly known to exist at present (about 6 inches across the wings); and seems to show connection with the huge Tertiary Gomphinae

which have been found in a fossil state. It is exceedingly rare, and becoming obsolete; the only two specimens known are the types. The position of the genus is still a source of much speculation amongst leading authorities. — 2) The Dragonflies of South-Western Australia. By R. J. Tillyard, M.A., F.E.S. — The district worked was that lying between Perth on the North, and Cape Leeuwin on the South; which has a regular and abundant rainfall. It may be divided into two portions, the Darling Ranges with their running streams, and the low coastal strip with lagoons and marshes. The Odonata of the two portions were found to be very distinct. Twenty-six species were noted, of which six are new and very interesting forms [referable to the genera *Synthemis* (2), *Austrogomphus*, *Austroaeschna*, *Argiolestes*, and *Pseudagrion*], four or five others are very rare, and the rest are common eastern species. Many of the species are black or nearly so, and seek protection on the burnt stumps or in the foliage of the "black-boys" (*Xanthorrhoea*) which are abundant everywhere. — 5) Revision of Australian Lepidoptera. Part IV. By A. J. Turner, M.D., F.E.S. — This paper continues the revision of the Family Geometridae, and is mainly concerned with the subfamily Sterrhinae. When Mr. Meyrick revised this group in 1887, he recognised thirty-two species, referred to five genera; the present revision treats of one hundred and two species, ascribed to twenty genera. Five species, referable to the subfamily Hydrimeninae (dealt with in the preceding paper) are also described as new.

2. Zoologisches Institut zu Erlangen.

Mit dem zoologischen Institut in Erlangen wurde vom 1. November 1907 ab eine Kgl. Anstalt für Bienezucht verbunden. Die Direktion ist dem Professor der Zoologie, Dr. A. Fleischmann, übertragen worden. Als Leiter der wissenschaftlichen Abteilung wurde der Privatdozent der Zoologie, Dr. E. Zander, als Leiter des Muster- und Versuchsbienenstandes der bisherige Volksschullehrer Karl Hofmann in Memmingen aufgestellt. Letzterer wurde zugleich als staatl. Konsulent für Bienezucht ernannt.

3. Deutsche mikrobiologische Gesellschaft.

Der Vorstand hat in der letzten Sitzung beschlossen, eine mikrobiologische Centralbibliothek mit dem Sitz in München zu errichten. Für den Grundstock wurden bereits von einer Reihe erster Gelehrter eine größere Anzahl Werke überwiesen und von einem Mitglied der D. m. G. eine größere Summe gestiftet. Die D. m. G. bittet nun die Herren Autoren, ihre Sonderabdrucke, besonders solche, die nicht im Buchhandel erschienen sind, der D. m. G. für ihre Bibliothek nach München, Ainmillerstr. 29, zu senden.



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