

### III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

#### 1. Zoological Society of London.

4th April, 1882. Mr. Selater exhibited and made remarks on an example of a rare Flycatcher (*Cyanomyias coelestis*) from the Philippines, which had been sent to England for determination by Dr. Moesch, of Zürich. — Mr. Selater also exhibited and made remarks on two specimens of the Subcylindrical Hornbill (*Buceros subcylindricus*) which had been formerly living in the Society's Gardens. — Dr. A. Günther read the description of a new species of freshwater Turtle from Siam, a specimen of which had been recently acquired by the British Museum. The author proposed to name it *Geoemyda impressa*, from the peculiar shape of the principal upper plates, which are not merely flattened, but distinctly concave. — Mr. W. A. Forbes read a paper on the structure of the convoluted trachea of two species of Manucode (*Manucodia atra* and *Phonygama Gouli*), and added remarks on similar conformations in the tracheae of other birds. — Mr. J. E. Harting read a paper on the eggs of three species of wading-birds which had been obtained by the Rev. W. Deans Cowan in the neighbourhood of Fianarantsoa in the Betsileo country, Madagascar. The species to which these eggs belonged were *Glareola ocularis*, *Aegialitis Geoffroyi*, and *Gallinago macrodactyla*. Much interest attached to these eggs, as not having been previously described. — A communication was read from Mr. E. P. Ramsay, C.M.Z.S., containing the description of a supposed new species of *Tephros*, an example of which had been obtained by the late Mr. S. White while collecting at the Aru Islands. The author proposed to name it *Tephros Whitei*, after its discoverer.

18th April, 1882. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March, 1882, and called special attention to a Radiated Fruit-Cuckoo (*Carpococcyx radiatus*) from Sumatra, purchased March 31st, and quite new to the Society's Collection. — Professor Flower read a paper upon the mutual affinities of the animals composing the order Edentata, in which the usual binary division into *Phyllophaga* (or *Tardigrada*) and *Entomophaga* (or *Vermilingua*) was shown not to agree with the most important structural characters. These, according to the interpretation put upon them by the author, indicate that the *Bradypodidae* and *Megatheriidae* are allied to the *Myrmecophagidae*, and also, though less closely, to the *Dasypodidae* — all the American forms thus constituting one primary division of the order, from which both the *Manidae* and *Orycteropodidae* of the Old World are totally distinct. — A communication was read from Mr. Charles Darwin, F.R.S., introducing a paper by Dr. van Dyck, of Beyrout, on the modification of a race of Syrian street dogs by means of natural selection. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas read an account of a small collection of Mammals made by Mr. A. Forrer in the State of Durango, Central Mexico, in which examples of several northern forms not hitherto recorded so far south and several southern forms not hitherto known so far north occurred. — A communication was read from Mr. Edward Bartlett containing notes on a collection of mammals and birds formed by Mr. J. Hauxwell in the neighbourhood of Nauta, Elvira,

and Loretoyacu, on the Peruvian Amazons. The collection contained examples of new species of *Thamnophilus* and of *Crypturus*, which were proposed to be called *T. loretoyacuensis* and *C. Balstoni*. — A communication was read from Mr. Edgar A. Smith containing an account of the collections of terrestrial and fluviatile Mollusca lately made in Madagascar by Mr. W. Johnson and the Rev. W. Deans Cowan. Various new and interesting species of the genera *Cyclostoma*, *Vitrina*, *Helix*, *Stenogyra*, *Melanatria*, *Cleopatra*, *Am-pullaria*, *Limnaea*, *Physa*, *Planorbis*, *Corbicula*, and *Pisidium* were described. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

## 2. Linnean Society of London.

March 16, 1882. — Mr. Smith showed a bee caught alive in this country, and having a profuse growth of the Isaria condition of the *Cordiceps sphecocephala*, a W. Indian form, the latter genus being closely allied to *Claviceps*, or Ergot. — Dr. Francis Day read a paper upon the Salmones found in the British Isles, remarking how great changes are occasioned by retaining any of them in unsuitable localities. He objected to the augmentation in number of the British forms of non-migratory Trout from three to seven, as made by Dr. Günther, holding that we possess only two: — the Loch Leven Trout, which is in reality a marine form acclimatized to fresh water, whereas the remainder are solely local races of the common Brook Trout. A most interesting fact was brought forward, viz. that Mr. Arthur, in New Zealand, having lately examined the Trout which were introduced in 1869, from ova originally obtained from the Thames and the West of England, found great structural changes had taken place. The fish in question, moreover, living in different streams in New Zealand, had also assumed local peculiarities of size and change of form; and, due doubtless to increased food, the annual increment of weight had risen from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, and an example had been seen weighing 20 pounds. The coecal appendages, hitherto held as significant of species, were found augmented from 33 to 50, as exemplified in British fish, to from 43 to 54 in the New Zealand examples, showing that these organs are inconstant in number. Having alluded to the different species, Dr. Day concluded that, as the various species of non-migratory Trout, accepted by Dr. Günther, interbreed, and the hybrids are not sterile, the fact gives increased reason for supposing these various forms are merely local races, and not different species; that if they are really distinct species, division has not proceeded sufficiently far, because the Gillaroo, a form of Trout with a thickened middle coat of the stomach, has been termed *Salmo stomachicus* Günther, whereas the Great Lake Trout with a thickened stomach, and the Charr, having a similarly transformed organ, have not yet been differentiated into species. Dr. Day considers that all our non-migratory Freshwater Trout (excluding the Loch Leven) are merely local races; that interbreeding will produce mongrels, in which sterility need not be anticipated, while introducing new races (unless on the principle of preventing breeding in and in) will not be of much benefit to fisheries, unless the food is in excess of local requirements, for if not, the new-comers will revert to the colour, form and size of the original tenants of the water. —

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