

which had been presented to the Natural History Museum by Mr. J. Jenner Weir, F.Z.S. The author proposed to call it *C. Weiri*. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

5<sup>th</sup> April, 1887. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March 1887, and called special attention to two Long-tailed Grass-Finches (*Poëphila acuticauda*) from N. W. Australia, presented by Mr. Walter Burton, F.Z.S.; and to a Fisk's Snake (*Boodon Fiskii*) and a Narrowheaded Toad (*Bufo angusticeps*) from South Africa, presented by the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk. — Mr. F. Day, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on a specimen of a Mediterranean Fish (*Scorpana scrofa*), taken by a trawler off Brixham early in March last, and new to the British fauna. — Mr. J. H. Leech, F.Z.S., exhibited some specimens of new Butterflies from Japan and Corea, and gave a short account of his recent journeys to those countries in quest of Lepidoptera. — The Secretary read a letter addressed to him by the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk, C.M.Z.S., of the Cape Colony, respecting the killing and eating, by a Shrew, of a young venomous Snake (*Sepedon hæmachates*). — Prof. Flower, F.R.S., communicated, on behalf of Messrs. John H. Scott and T. Jeffery Parker, of the University of Otago, N.Z., a paper containing an account of a specimen of a young female *Ziphius*, which was cast ashore alive at Warrington, north of Dunedin, New Zealand, in November 1884. — Mr. Richard S. Wray read a paper on the morphology of the wings of birds, in which a description was given of a typical wing, and the main modifications which are found in other forms of wings were pointed out. One of the principal points adverted to was the absence, in nearly half the class of birds, of the fifth cubital remex, its coverts only being developed. The peculiar structure of the wings in the Ratitæ and the *Sphenisci* was also commented upon. — A communication was read from the Rev. H. S. Gorham, F.Z.S., on the classification of the Coleoptera of the division Languriides. The author pointed out the characters which, in his opinion, were available for the systematic arrangement of this family of Coleoptera, and for its division into genera. The subject had hitherto not received the attention it deserved, and several errors had gained currency, owing to the hasty and insufficient way in which the structure of these insects had been analyzed. He added an analytical table of about forty genera, many of those proposed being new. Further notice of the American genera would soon appear in Messrs. Godman and Salvin's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana'. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

#### 4. Linnean Society of London.

17<sup>th</sup> March, 1887. — Mr. Alfred O. Walker read a paper on the Crustacea of Singapore. The collection in question having been made by Surg. Major Archer during 1879—1883. The species were chiefly dredged in 15—20 fathoms, or got on shallow sand banks. A full list is given of all the forms identified and several new species are described; among these are *Doclea tetraptera*, *Xanthe scaberrimus*, *Maii Miersii* and *Gephyra Archeri*. — A paper by George King on the Indian Figs was read, in which it was shown that Insects play a considerable part in the fertilization of certain forms. Dealing with the structural peculiarities of the flowers in the Genus *Ficus*, he specifies (1) male (2) pseudohermaphrodite (3) neuter, and (4)

female fertile flowers. Besides these there occurs a set of flowers originally named by himself »Insect-attacked-females«, but for which he has adopted Count Solms-Laubach's term »Gall Flowers«. (Bot. Zeit. 1885.) The latter botanist having anticipated him in publication, though King's researches had commenced earlier. As to the question of these Gall-Flowers Dr. King states that the pupa of an insect can usually be seen through the coats of the ovary. The pupa when perfected escapes into the cavity of the receptacle by cutting its way through, and fully developed winged insects are often to be found in considerable numbers in the cavity of the fig. The pupa of the insect must become encysted in the ovary of the gall-flower at a very early period, for about the time at which the imago is escaping from the ovary the pollen of the anthers of the male flower is only beginning to shed. Thus Dr. King holds that through the interposition of insects the malformed female flowers doubtless become functionally important in the life history of the fig trees. — J. Murie.

### 5. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

26<sup>th</sup> January, 1887. — 1) On an undescribed *Dules* from New Guinea. By E. P. Ramsay, L.L.D., and J. Douglas-Ogilby. Three specimens of the new species, which is named *D. nitens*, were obtained on the S.E. coast of New Guinea, by Mr. Cairns. — 2) Botanical. — 3) Catalogue of the described Coleoptera of Australia. By George Masters. Part VII. This Part completes Mr. Masters's Catalogue of the Coleoptera of Australia. It includes the Families *Phytophagidæ*, *Erotylidæ*, *Endomychidæ* and *Coccinellidæ*, and contains a record of 997 species, bringing the total record up to 7230 species. — 4) Notes on some Trilobites new to Australia. By F. Ratte, M.E. The author makes some remarks on his species *Lichas sinuata* which he thinks may be looked upon as a variety of *Lichas palmata*, Barr. (= *L. hirsuta*, Fletch.); and figures some Trilobites belonging to the genera *Acidaspis* and *Staurocephalus* from Bowning, some of them probably new species. — 5) On the mode of Nidification of *Pachycephala Gilbertii*. By K. H. Bennett. Mr. Bennett records the finding on the 24th of October last at Hilfern Station, West of the Darling River, of a specimen of this bird, sitting on three eggs in the old nest of a *Pomatostomus*. The eggs and nest are now in the Australian Museum. — 6) Botanical. — Mr. Smithurst exhibited the ulna, radius and other bones of a gigantic Kangaroo from a deep deposit at Gulgong. Also, two specimens of Corals also from Gulgong; one, *Favosites Gothlandica*, the other, a species of *Isastræa* evidently foreign to the district. — Mr. Ogilby exhibited a coloured drawing by Mr. Irwin, of the beautiful fish *Girella cyanea*. — Mr. A. Sidney Olliff exhibited a gigantic flea which he identified as *Pulex echidna*, Denny. The specimen was found by Mr. Pedley on the Australian Echidna together with the small species recently described in the 'Proceedings' as *Echidnophaga ambulans*. — Mr. McCooey contributed two notes on the burrowing habits of *Chelodina longicollis*, describing the mode in which the female carries water to soften the hard soil which she chooses as the spot for her nidification. — Mr. Masters exhibited a fine collection of Entomogenous Fungi and read the following explanatory note:— »I have put together in the drawer I now exhibit some of the most conspicuous Entomogenous Fungi in the Macleay-

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