

*thodrilus multiporus*³, he has described eight nephridia per somite: one corresponding to each of the eight setae, which in this species are separate.

In *A. dissimilis*: and *A. novae-zelandiae*⁴ the nephridia are limited to the usual one pair per somite: but they alternate in position, from somite to somite, as in *Plutellus*⁵: but in *Acanthodrilus* the dorsal nephridia differ somewhat from the ventral series.

In other species of *Acanthodrilus*, in some *Perichaeta*, and in *Trigaster* (which may, perhaps, be a species of *Acanthodrilus*, as Mr. Horst has recently, suggested) the nephridia are represented by scattered tuft-like masses of tubules having all the appearance of true nephridia. But this is the first record of an earthworm in which two pairs of nephridia occur regularly in each somite of the body. I will not here enter, in any detail, into the bearing which this arrangement has on the theory of the genital ducts of earthworms being modified nephridia: suffice it to say that I do not see any reason to regard it as militating against Prof. Lankester's theory, if, instead of starting with two pairs of nephridia, on each side, one of which has disappeared except in the somites in which they have become modified as genital ducts, we take as the origin such an arrangement as obtains in many *Perichaetae* — viz. numerous scattered tufts of tubules. This I am inclined to think is the primitive arrangement, from which the usual condition has been derived by suppression of certain of the nephridia, and a concomitant increase in size of the remaining ones: whilst some of the primitive nephridia have, in certain somites taken the function of genital ducts.

Unfortunately we have no embryological data on this point, the latest writer on the development of the earthworm⁶, although dealing with the development of the nephridia, makes no mention of the genital ducts.

London, Dec. 1857.

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

17th January, 1858. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of December 1857, and called attention to a small Fox from Afghanistan, presented by

³ Proc. Roy. Soc. 1855. p. 459. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1855. p. 822.

⁴ Beddard, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1855. p. 822.

⁵ Perrier, Arch. de Zool. Exp. t. II. 1873.

⁶ Wilson, Journ. Morphol. Vol. I. 1857.

Lieut.-Col. Sir O. B. C. St. John, F.Z.S., which should probably be referred to the species shortly noticed by Blyth as *Vulpes Griffithi*. It was, however, somewhat doubtful whether the species was really distinct from *Vulpes leucopus*, Blyth, the small Desert Fox of Western India. — Mr. Francis Day, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on some hybrid fishes from Howietown, and on a British specimen of the Spined Loche. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., read a report on a collection of Mammals obtained by Emin Pasha in Central Africa, and presented by him to the Natural-History Museum. The collection contained 115 specimens belonging to 39 species. The great mass of the collection had been obtained in a district called Monbuttu, just within the Congo Basin. A new Flying Squirrel, of small size, was named *Anomalurus pusillus*, and a new Tree-Hyrax, *Dendrohyrax Emini*, after its discoverer. — Capt. G. E. Shelley, F.Z.S., read a paper on a collection of birds made by Emin Pasha in Equatorial Africa. The series had been formed partly in the Upper Nile district and partly in the Monbuttu country in the Congo Basin, and contained examples of four species new to science, proposed to be called *Indicator Emini*, *Spermospiza ruficapilla*, *Ploceus castanops*, and *Glareola Emini*. — Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., read a report on a collection of Reptiles and Batrachians from Monbuttu, sent by Emin Pasha. The author enumerated seventeen specimens, of which nine were almost generally distributed over the African region; of the remainder, seven were known from various parts of West Africa. One Tree-Snake was described as new, and called, after its discoverer, *Ahaetulla Emini*. — Mr. Edgar A. Smith, F.Z.S., read an account of the Shells collected by Dr. Emin Pasha on the Albert Nyanza, Central Africa. Of the five species of which examples were obtained, three were referred to new species. It was stated that fifteen species of Shells were now known from Lake Albert, of which seven were peculiar to it. — Mr. Arthur G. Butler, F.Z.S., gave an account of the Lepidoptera received from Dr. Emin Pasha. The collection contained examples of 155 species, of which thirteen Butterflies and two Moths were new to science. — A communication was read from Mr. Charles O. Waterhouse containing an account of the Coleoptera from Eastern Equatorial Africa received from Emin Pasha. One of the species was new to science, and six of them had previously been received at the British Museum from West Africa only. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Notiz.

Dr. Franz Stuhlmann, Assistent am zool.-zootomischen Institut in Würzburg, wird Ende Februar mit Unterstützung der Königlichen Academie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin eine Reise nach der Ostküste Africas zu zoologischen Studien antreten. Er gedenkt zunächst nach Sansibar, später vielleicht noch nach Madagascar zu reisen. Briefe und Sendungen sind während seiner Reise nach Hamburg-Bergfelde, Mittelweg, oder nach Sansibar, care of Hansing & Co., zu schicken.

B e r i c h t i g u n g .

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