

Voici les deux solutions comme je les ai préparées :

A) Solution aqueuse. J'ai mis les noix dans un vase rempli d'alcool; une fois que l'alcool est devenu vert par la dissolution du chlorophyle je l'ai jeté, en nettoyant plusieurs fois les noix avec de l'eau, pour en extraire l'alcool dont elles étaient imbibées; j'en ai pris 25 de ces noix (du mois de Juin) et je les ai placées dans un vase de porcelaine avec 500 grammes d'eau distillée. J'ai fait bouillir cette préparation jusqu'à ce que l'eau se soit évaporée plus d'à moitié. — Ce liquide ainsi obtenu, filtré plusieurs fois avec du papier buvard, je l'ai fait de nouveau bouillir avec 10 pour 100 d'alun. — La solution ainsi préparée a la couleur marron foncé à la lumière obscure, et rouge sang à la lumière directe. — L'action de cette solution est plus lente que celle de la solution alcoolique, mais le préparatif en est très clair. —

B) Solution alcoolique. Après avoir fait longuement bouillir les noix dans de l'eau je les ai jetées et ai laissé le liquide reposer et déposer par conséquent la substance noire Nucina; au fond de ce vase, j'ai séparée l'eau de ce dépôt en y ajoutant 100 grammes d'alcool à 80 degrés pour 3 grammes de Nucina, quantité que je reconnais aujourd'hui trop forte.

Cette solution a une couleur noire et je la recommande surtout pour les coupes de tissus après que l'on aura introduit quelques gouttes d'acide chlorhydrique.

2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

29th August, 1888. 1) Notes on the Carenides, with descriptions of new Species. By Thomas G. Sloane. In this paper Mr. Sloane takes up the history of the group from the date of Mr. Macleay's revision of the sub-family in 1887, gives a record of the species described since that date by Mr. Macleay and the Rev. Thomas Blackburn, describes and names 13 new species from various parts of Australia, and forms three new genera — *Neoscaphus*, *Paliscaphus*, and *Chariscapterus*. He also gives a synoptical table of all the genera or sub-genera, suggesting some new distinctive characters derivable from the system of puncturation in certain parts. — 2) Diptera of Australia. Part III. Mycetophilidae. By Frederick A. A. Skuse. This contribution contains an introductory review of the known genera with a classification of the group, remarks on the geographical distribution, and description of a number of new species, for many of which the author has been compelled to create new generic divisions. The total number of species now described from Australia amounts to 36, of which only four, described by Walker in the „*Insecta Saundersiana*“, were previously known. Of these only half are referable to existing genera, viz., *Macrocera*, *Ceroplastus*, *Platyura*, *Sciophila*, *Leia*, *Trichonta* and *Mycetophila*. The most interesting of the new genera is included among the *Ceroplastinae* for a species closely allied to *Ceroplastus*. — 3) Notes on two Wax Figures obtained in an aboriginal camp

at Miriam Vale, near the head of the Calliope River, Rockhampton. By J. C. Cox, M.D., F.L.S., &c. A detailed description is given of two very remarkable female figures modelled in wax, the only examples of plastic art ever observed among the Australian aboriginals. Both figures were without arms and mouths. — 4) Botanical. — 5) The Insects of King's Sound and its vicinity. Part III. The Sternoxes. By William Macleay, F.L.S., &c. The species of the families *Buprestidae* and *Elateridae*, collected by Mr. Froggatt in the West Kimberley District of West Australia, are here given. The total number of species is about 60, of which 10 only had previously been described. — 6) On Two Instances of Colour Variation in Butterflies. By A. Sidney Olliff. In this short note varieties of *Pyrameis Cardui* and *Papilio eretheus*, from Bombala and Ash Island Hunter River, respectively, are described, and the geographical forms of the former are discussed. Attention is directed to the fact that specimens undistinguishable from the Australian form (*P. Kershawi*) have been captured in the south of England, and the conclusion is arrived at that the dominant Australian form with blue-centred spots in the hind wings has hardly yet become a *geographical race* in the sense of Wallace. — Professor Tate called the attention of the Meeting to a new Marsupial animal recently received at the Adelaide Museum from Alice Springs, Central Australia, and of which a detailed account by Mr. Zietz of the S. A. Museum, will shortly be given. The specimen had been sun-dried and salted, and therefore was not in first-rate condition, but from such observations as was possible at the time the following characters were determinable. In appearance the animal somewhat resembles the Cape-mole (*Chrysochlora*); its teeth and fore-limbs indicate that it is insectivorous and a burrower, and though no marsupial bones were observed in a cursory examination, the marsupial characters of the creature were shown by the presence of marginal folds bounding the lactiferous surface, which, and in other characters also, implies some affinity to the Monotremes. The animal is evidently a rare one, as it was only the second specimen known, on the testimony of the blacks, during sixteen years. — Mr. North exhibited the eggs of the following species: — *Menura superba*, Davies; *M. Alberti*, Gould; and *M. Victoriae*, Gould: also the eggs of six species of Bower-birds, viz.: — *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*, Vieillot; *Chlamydodera maculata*, Gould; *C. cerviniventris*, Gould; *Sericulus melinus*, Latham; *Ailuroedus viridis*, Latham, and *A. maculosus*, Ramsay. — Dr. Cox exhibited specimens of 32 species of Land and Freshwater Mollusca, collected by Mr. C. W. Musson, F.L.S., in the neighbourhood of Narrabri, N.S.W., and of which the list will be given in the Proceedings; and he pointed out the interest attaching to several of them from the stand-point of geographical distribution. — Also a number of well-preserved Carboniferous fossils from the Goulburn River, a tributary of the Hunter. — Mr. Whitelegge exhibited specimens of Medusae — *Aurelia caerulea* (?) — from Mossman's Bay, killed in a saturated solution of alum, showing the excellent results of that mode of preservation. — Mr. J. Douglas-Ogilby exhibited three specimens of the larval form of the genus *Trachypterus*, two of which were obtained from the Mediterranean, and are labelled *T. taenia* by Dr. Dohrn; the third was taken in Port Jackson by Mr. W. Paul, and is probably the young stage of Dr. Ramsay's *T. jacksoniensis*, a species which is so closely allied to the northern *T. arcticus* that there is great doubt as to their specific distinction. The great development of some

of the fins is worthy of notice, especially as in the adult state they are either very much modified or (in the case of the ventrals) entirely absent. — The President exhibited the pouch of a specimen of *Dasyurus viverrinus*, which he had received from Mr. Kater, containing eight young ones. — Mr. Fletcher exhibited two frogs, duplicates of specimens recently submitted to Mr. Boulenger of the British Museum, who regards, and will shortly describe them, as representing two new species, namely, a *Lymnodynastes* from the Mudgee district, collected by Mr. A. G. Hamilton, and a *Crinia* from Warragul, Gippsland, Victoria, collected by Mr. R. T. Baker. Also the remarkable frog exhibited at a previous meeting (vide Proceedings, March, 1887) which from the cursory examination then possible, nobody present recognised, and which he again showed to point out that it appeared to be a very large old male specimen of *Helioporus albopunctatus*, Gray, in which the shagreening of the skin was more than usually developed. —

3. Preisaufgabe über die Natur des Fischgiftes und über die Mittel gegen dasselbe.

In Folge der sich alljährlich wiederholenden Fälle von Vergiftung durch Fischgift mit tödlichem Ausgange, nach Genuß von stark (für die Dauer) gesalzenem Fisch, die besonders unter der an fischreichen Gewässern lebenden Bevölkerung sehr häufig vorkommen, hat das Comité der Caspischen Fischereien aus den von den Fischereipächtern einlaufenden Pachtsummen 5000 Rubel in der Astrachan'schen Abtheilung der Reichsbank deponirt und diese Summe zu einer Prämie bestimmt für eine Untersuchung über die Natur des Fischgiftes, über die Mittel, der Entstehung desselben in den Fischen vorzubeugen, so wie endlich über die Behandlung der durch das Gift inficirten Kranken.

Diejenigen, welche sich an die Lösung dieser für das Volkswohl so wichtigen Aufgabe machen wollen, haben speciell folgende Punkte zu berücksichtigen:

1) Es soll durch genaue Experimente die physicalische und chemische Natur des Fischgiftes bestimmt werden.

2) Es soll durch Experimente an Thieren die Wirkung des Fischgiftes auf das Herz, den Blutkreislauf, die Verdauungsorgane und das Nervensystem festgestellt werden.

3) Es soll die Schnelligkeit ermittelt werden, mit welcher das Gift in den Verdauungswegen absorbirt wird.

4) Es sollen die Kennzeichen angegeben werden, vermittels welcher sich schädliche, d. h. giftige, Fische von unschädlichen (gesunden) unterscheiden lassen.

5) Es sollen die Mittel gefunden werden, um die Entwicklung des Giftes in den Fischen zu verhindern.

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1888

Band/Volume: [11](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Anonymous

Artikel/Article: [2. Linnean Society of New South Wales 625-627](#)