

Sollte man es dennoch mit sehr delicaten Farben zu thun haben, so läßt sich der Proceß derartig umändern, daß man trockene Substanzen anwendet, zu welchem Zwecke man sich Nudeln aus Watte anfertigt, die vor dem Gebrauch mit Sublimatlösung, Carbonsäure etc. getränkt wurden. Diese Nudeln stopft man mit Leichtigkeit in die Bauchhöhle wie auch in den Hals, am besten nach vorheriger Entfernung des Gedärmes, worauf man das ganze Gefieder tüchtig mit Gipsmehl, Sandpulver etc. einstäubt, das mit einem passenden Gifte versetzt ist. Selbst größere Vögel lassen sich so praepariren, wenn man ihnen noch das Brustfleisch entnimmt, und sogar bei feuchtem Wetter ist diese Art des Verfahrens anwendbar und hat gegen das erstere nur den Nachtheil, daß das Gefieder nicht so vollständig vergiftet ist.

Schlägt man irgend einen der besprochenen Wege ein, so wird man alle Vögel, vom kleinsten bis zum größten, vom farbeneinfachsten bis zum farbenreichsten, praepariren können. Dennoch ist aber dies Verfahren nicht bestimmt, das althergebrachte Abbalgen zu verdrängen, zumal wo es sich um große Objecte, wie Hühner-, Raubvögel etc. handelt. Weiterhin kann man aber auch von anderen zoologischen Objecten derartige Mumien herstellen. So hatte ich schon früher² einmal angegeben, Echiniden in der Weise zu praepariren, daß man sie in eine Abtötungsflüssigkeit setzt und sie darauf ohne Weiteres trocknet, ein Verfahren, das sich auch bei anderen Echinodermen, wie Crinoideen, Asteroideen und Ophiurideen, anwenden läßt. Ferner giebt es auch leidliche Resultate bei Octopoden, die jedoch sehr stark gehärtet sein müssen. Crustaceen zu mumificiren gelingt sehr gut, wiewohl ich sie lieber mit Glycerinsyrup behandle. Von Fischen habe ich schließlich Panzerwelse, von anderen Wirbelthieren kleine Säugthiere, wie Mäuse, Ratten, Fledermäuse, Meerschweinchen etc., derartig conservirt.

2. Zoological Society of London.

4th December, 1888. — Mr. Howard Saunders, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on an adult male of the American Green-winged Teal (*Querquedula carolinensis*), shot in Devonshire in 1879. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., gave an account of the Mammals obtained by Mr. C. M. Woodford during his second expedition to the Solomon Islands. The author stated that the total number of species of Mammals now known from the Solomons was brought up by the present collection from 13 to 22, and that of these no less than 8 had been discovered by Mr. Woodford, his previous collection having contained examples of two and the present of six new spe-

² Verfahren zur Herstellung von zoologischen und anatomischen Präparaten mittels der Glycerindurchtränkung. Zool. Jahrb. 1. Bd. 1. Hft. Miscellen.

cies. There were also two new genera of Bats to be added to the one previously described. — Mr. F. E. Beddard read a paper upon the genus *Clitellio*, which had been recently investigated by him at the Marine Biological Station at Plymouth. The paper contained an account of the anatomy of two species, *Clitellio arenarius* and *C. ater*; the most important fact referred to was the presence of an oviduct, which had only lately been found in the Tubificidae (in the genus *Psammoryctes*). The paper also contained some remarks upon the synonymy of the two species, particularly of *C. ater*, which was probably identical with d'Udekem's *Tubifex Benedenii* and with Zeuger's *Peloryctis inquilina*. It was also pointed out that *C. ater* is not congeneric with *C. arenarius*, but probably belongs to Eisen's genus *Hemitubifex*. — Prof. Howes and Mr. Davies read a paper on the distribution and morphology of the supernumerary phalanges in the Anurous Batrachians. The authors described for the first time the primary mode of development of a supernumerary phalanx. They concluded that the same is in the Anura identical with the interphalangeal syndesmoses, and that the syndesmoses and phalanges are derivatives of a common blastema. In its fully differentiated condition the structure in question was shown to be functional in receiving the direct thrust under the weight of the falling body in saltation; all the variations in structure being readily intelligible on that view. — The authors discussed the bearings of the facts upon classification and upon the broader question of the morphology of supernumerary phalanges in general. They showed that the facts of development indicated a probable intercalary origin of the latter from the interarticular syndesmoses; and that the numerical increase of the phalanges in the Cetacea may have been associated with the loss of ungues, somewhat similarly to the way in which the multiplication of segments of the cartilaginous rays in the paired fins of the Batoidei would appear to have been connected with the disappearance of horny fin-rays. The authors also showed that the Discoglossidae alone among the Anura retained for life the undifferentiated syndesmoses, and that this feature testified more forcibly than anything else to their low affinities. They also described a community of structure between the modified syndesmoses in certain Anura and the apparatus of the knee-joint in Mammals, and urged that the facts were such as to necessitate a reconsideration of the morphological value of the latter. — A communication was read from Mr. J. J. Lister, F.Z.S., giving a general account of the natural history of Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean, which he had visited in 1887 as naturalist to H. M. surveying-vessel 'Egeria'. Mr. Lister gave a detailed account of the Birds obtained in Christmas Island. Of these seven were land-birds, all of which belonged to species peculiar to the island, though some of them approached their allies in the Indian Archipelago very closely. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., read a paper on the Mammals of Christmas Island, obtained by Mr. Lister during the same expedition. — This was followed by reports on the Reptiles of Christmas Island obtained during the expedition, by Mr. G. Boulenger, F.Z.S.; on the Terrestrial Mollusks, by Mr. Edgar A. Smith, F.Z.S.; on the Coleoptera, by Mr. C. J. Gahan; on the Lepidoptera, by Mr. A. G. Butler, F.Z.S.; on the other Insects, by Mr. Kirby; and on the Annelida, Myriapoda, and Land-Crustacea, by Mr. R. I. Pocock. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

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