

Gegengründe möchte ich doch auch die *Ceratodus*-artige Brustflosse für ursprünglicher halten als die der Selachier.

Auch für die Selachier sind die bekannten *Xenacanthini* nicht die directen Ahnen gewesen, so wenig wie für die *Dipnoi* und *Teleostomi*; dieselben sind schon einigermaßen specialisirt, und außerdem kennen wir aus viel älteren Zeiten, aus dem Devon, schon Vertreter dieser drei getrennten Fischordnungen.

Pleuracanthus ist aber unter allen bekannten Fischformen diejenige, die den ursprünglichsten Bau besitzt, und diejenige, welche der gemeinsamen Stammform aller echten Fische am nächsten steht. Was *Hatteria* ist unter den Reptilien, das ist *Pleuracanthus* unter den Fischen.

Straßburg, den 10. Januar 1889.

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

5th February, 1889. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of January 1889. — Mr. Selater exhibited a living specimen of the Thick-billed Lark (*Ramphocoris Clotbeyi*) lately received by the Society from Southern Algeria, and called attention to its structural peculiarities. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger read a paper on the species of Batrachians of the genus *Rhacophorus*, hitherto confounded under the name of *R. maculatus*, and pointed out their distinctions. — Mr. Selater pointed out the characters of some new species of birds of the family Dendrocolaptidae, which were proposed to be called *Upucerthia Bridgesi*, *Phacellodomus rufipennis*, *Thripophaga fusciceps*, *Philydor cervicalis*, and *Picolaptes parvirostris*. — A communication was read from the Rev. O. P. Cambridge on some new species and a new genus of Araneidea. Two of these species (*Pachylomenus natalensis* and *Stegodyphus gregarius*) were based on specimens living in the Insect-house in the Society's Gardens. — A communication was read from Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell, containing descriptions of new or rare Holothurians of the genera *Plexaura* and *Plexaurella*. — Dr. Günther, F.R.S., exhibited and made remarks on some fishes which had been dredged up by Mr. John Murray off the West Coast of Scotland, and were not previously known to occur in British waters viz. *Cottus Lilljeborgii* (Collett), *Triglops Murrayi*, sp. n., *Gadus Esmarkii* (Nilss.), *Onus Reinhardtii* (Collett), *Fierasfer acus* (Brünn.), *Scopelus scoticus*, sp. n. and *Stomias ferox* (Rnhrdt.). — Dr. Günther also exhibited and described a specimen of *Lichia vadigo* (Risso), a species of which only a few specimens were previously known from the Mediterranean and Madeira. This specimen was obtained by Capt. MacDonald on September 17, 1888, off Waternish Point, Isle of Skye. — He also exhibited a hybrid between the Roach (*Leuciscus rutilus*) and the Bleak (*Alburnus alburnus*), sent to him by Lord Lilford from the river Nun, Northamptonshire. — Mr. Beddard read a paper descriptive of the coloured epidermic cells of *Aeolosoma tenebrarum*. — Mr.

Boulenger exhibited and made remarks on a series of living specimens of Tortoises of the genus *Homopus* from the Cape Colony, lately received by the Society from the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk, C.M.Z.S. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

26th December, 1888. — 1) Descriptions of Australian Micro-Lepidoptera. Part XV. Oecophoridae (continued). By E. Meyrick, B.A., F.E.S. This contribution concludes the series of papers dealing with the Oecophoridae, and comprises the descriptions of about 170 new species, bringing up the known Australian species of the family to about 750, whilst less than 100 are known from the rest of the world. — 2) On Simple Striated Muscular Fibres. By W. A. Haswell, M.A., D.Sc., Lecturer in Biology, Sydney University. A comprehensive study of striated muscular tissue, as it is exhibited throughout the various classes of the animal kingdom, leads the author to the conclusion that two main types are distinguishable among the muscular fibres which are generally classed together as striated — namely simple and compound. This paper accordingly contains observations on the structure and distribution of the first of these, or the simple type of muscular fibres. — 3) Jottings from the Biological Laboratory of Sydney University. By W. A. Haswell, M.A., D.Sc. No. X. On *Sacculina* infesting Australian Crabs. No. XI. On a method of preparing Blastoderms of the Fowl. No. XII. Note on *Urolophus testaceus*. — 4) Diptera of Australia. Part V. — The Culicidae. By Frederick A. A. Skuse. Twenty-eight species are treated of in this paper, whereof eighteen are new; while one species which is wide-spread in the country is regarded as introduced. The whole are distributed amongst the following genera: — *Megarhina* (1), *Culex* (22), *Anopheles* (4), and *Aedes* (1). *Culex camptorhynchus*, Thom., is considered synonymous with *C. alboannulatus*, Macq. Of the total seven species of *Culex*, and one each of *Anopheles*, *Aedes*, and *Megarhina*, are prevalent in Sydney. — 5) Notes on the Synonymy and Distribution of Australian Palaeichthyces. Part I. By J. Douglas Ogilby, F.L.S. Mr. Ogilby here enumerates twenty-two species of Australian Palaeichthyces, three of which are new to our waters, and two others are doubtful. He remarks on the constitution of family groups, which he considers should be greatly modified, makes several changes in synonymy, and strongly insists on the strict observance of the «law of priority». He complains of the difficulty of obtaining accurate information as to the distribution of species. — 6) A List of the Birds found in the County of Cumberland, N.S.W. By A. J. North, F.L.S. About 220 species are here recorded, together with ten others which can only be regarded as stragglers. — Mr. Sidney Olliff sent for exhibition a beautiful Noctuid of the genus *Phyllodes*, nearly allied to the Amboynese *P. conspiciator*, Cram., which he proposed to call *P. Meyricki*. One specimen from Mount Bellenden-Ker, Queensland, has been in the collection of the Australian Museum for some time, and more recently a specimen was received from Mr. C. French for identification, but without information as to its exact habitat. — Mr. Whitelegge exhibited a specimen of an earthworm (*Allolobophora turgida*, Eisen) with two tails, found at Summer Hill.

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