

dann im ersten Rumpfdrittel alternierende gelbe, breit schwarz eingesäumte Querflecken, die rechts und links von der Vertebraallinie bis zu den Ventralen reichen und sich vom zweiten Rumpfdrittel an verloschen bis zur Schwanzspitze als sehr undeutliche hellere Halbringe fortsetzen. Unterseite einfarbig gelb, die Außenränder der Ventralen dunkel graubraun bestäubt; diese beiden Färbungen scharf gegen einander geschieden. Ein großer schwärzlicher Flecken nimmt das dritte und vierte Infralabiale ein; auf den Analen eine ähnliche, aber kleinere grauliche Makel.

Maße: Kopflänge bis zur Spitze der Parietalen	11 ¹ / ₂ mm
größte Kopfbreite	9 »
Totallänge	484 »
Schwanzlänge	99 »

Fundort: Nicaragua, dem Lübecker Museum mit zahlreichen anderen Schlangen von hier durch Herrn Schuldirektor Hoffmann geschenkt.

Bemerkungen: Erinnerung von allen mir bekannten *Tantilla*-Arten noch am meisten an *Homalocranium semicinctum* D. B. (vgl. Cope, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 14. Bd. p. 598), doch bilden die Praefrontalen nirgends mit den Supralabialen Suturen, die hellen Halbringe sind viel schmaler, nur eine Schuppenreihe breit, und werden nach hinten, indem sie dunklere Färbung annehmen, sehr undeutlich.

Noch sei erwähnt, daß sich in einer Sendung des Herrn Capt. Hugo Storm drei Stücke der seltenen Seeschlange *Aepyurus anguilliformis* (Schmidt) von Singapore befanden, einer Art, die bis jetzt mit Sicherheit nur in den Meeren um Java gefunden worden war.

5. The therms of Auxology¹.

By S. S. Buckman, F.G.S. and F. A. Bather, M.A., F.G.S., London.

eingeg. 23. September 1892.

Ontogenetic stages.

In a paper entitled »Values in Classification of the Stages of Growth and Decline etc.«², Prof. Alpheus Hyatt divided the life of the individual into some five or six stages, which he designated by certain definite terms. These stages can, he believes, be recognised throughout the animal kingdom; indeed their value has already been proved for *Cephalopoda* by his own important papers, notably the

¹ αἰξή, growth, and λόγος science.

² Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. Vol. XXIII. p. 396. March, 1888.

»Genesis of the Arietidae«³, for *Pelecypoda* by Dr. R. T. Jackson⁴, and for *Brachiopoda* by Dr. C. E. Beecher⁵. Few modern workers will deny the existence of some such stages, or the necessity for naming them. It is therefore unfortunate that the designations proposed by Prof. Hyatt are open to serious objection on etymological grounds: this, no doubt, is largely the reason why they do not seem to have found favour with European labourers in similar fields. Since, however, Hyatt's terms are gradually coming into general use in America, and since they have lately been brought forward in Britain by Prof. J. F. Blake⁶, some protest should now be raised. They who undertake this ungrateful task are bound to set up something in place of what they destroy; a fresh series of terms is therefore proposed, but in its construction the original has been altered no more than seemed absolutely necessary.

The following Table gives, in the first column, the terms now applied by Hyatt to the successive ontogenetic stages; in the second column, those which it is here proposed to substitute; in the third column the words that may be used in ordinary literature, when technical strictness is not considered necessary. Some may think that the better known words of the third column, or their equivalents in the various European languages, should suffice for the purpose; but scientific precision demands terms that do not already possess some more general meaning, that can be transferred with ease into other tongues, and that lend themselves to the formation of suitable compounds.

Hyatt	Here proposed	Literary equivalents
1. Embryologic	Embryonic	Embryonic
2. Naepionic	Brephic	Infantine or Larval
3. Nealogic	Neanic	Adolescent
4. Ephebolic	Ephebic	Adult or Mature
5. Geratologic	Gerontic	Senile
a) Clinologic	Catabatic	Declining
b) Nostologic	Hypostrophic	Atavic

(Schluß folgt.)

³ Smithsonian Contributions to knowledge. No. 673, Washington, 1889.

⁴ »The development of the Oyster, with remarks on allied genera.« Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. Vol. XXIII. p. 531. March, 1888; and »Phylogeny of the Pelecypoda. The Aviculidae and their Allies.« Mem. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. Vol. IV. No. VIII. p. 277—400. July, 1890.

⁵ »Development of the Brachiopoda.« Amer. Journ. Sci. Vol. XLI. Apr. 1891, and Vol. XLIV. p. 133. Aug. 1892.

⁶ »The Evolution and Classification of the Cephalopoda etc.« Proc. Geol. Assoc. Vol. XII. p. 275. London, April, 1892.

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