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racters were the perforation of the gill-septum, found also in *Arnoglossus megastoma*, and the prolongation of the dorsal and ventral fins on to the right side at the base of the tail. The marked peculiarity of habit was that of adhering to vertical surfaces. It was shown that this was independent of either of the characters mentioned, and was due to the pumping-action of the longitudinal fins and their muscles posteriorly, the enlargement of these parts being also a generic character. No evidence of the utility of the specific characters could be discovered. The characters of other Pleuronectidae were similarly examined, and the conclusion reached was that there are two kinds of characters, the adaptive and the morphological. — Mr. A. Smith Woodward read a description of the so-called Salmonoid fishes of the English Chalk, dealing with the osteology of *Osmeroides lewesiensis*, *Elopopsis crassus*, and *Aulolepis typus*. He directed special attention to three features in the head of the genera to which these species are referred, namely: (1) the exclusion of the supraoccipital from the cranial roof by the union of the parietal bones in the median line, (2) the overlapping of the arched maxilla by two large supramaxillary bones, and (3) the presence of a large gular plate. All these characters separated the fishes in question from the typical Salmonidae, while the first and third distinguished them from typical Clupeidae. All three genera should be associated with the existing *Elops*, *Megalops*, and their allies. — Mr. W. Garstang, F.Z.S., read a paper on the Gastropod *Colpodaspis pusilla* of Michael Sars. Mr. Garstang described a specimen of this rare Mollusk found by him at Plymouth in the early part of the year. The anterior part of the foot was not really bifid, as stated by Sars, but possessed a pair of large prolongations of its antero-lateral angles, analogous to the anterior pedal cornua of many Aeolids. In this case, however, they were probably to be regarded as homologous with the pleuropodial expansions of the Tectibranchia. The bulloid shell, the radula, and the posterior appendage of the mantle pointed to the close affinity of *Colpodaspis* with the Cephalaspidea; but the great extent of the mantle, the small head, and the grooved tentacles were important and primitive characters which it shared with the Notaspidea. Whether *Colpodaspis* was an immature stage of some *Philine*-like genus or not, it furnished an indubitable connecting-link between these two great subdivisions of the Tectibranchia. — A communication from Mr. A. D. Bartlett gave an account of the recent occurrence in the Society's Menagerie of a case of one Boa swallowing another of nearly equal size. — A communication from Prof. R. Collett, F.M.Z.S., contained a description of a new Agonoid fish from Kamtschatka proposed to be called *Agonus Gilberti*. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

October 31st, 1894. — 1) Notes of a Visit to the Island of Erromanga, New Hebrides, in May, 1894. By Sutherland Sinclair. — 2) Preliminary Communication on the Cerebral Commissures of the Mammalia, with special reference to Monotremata and Marsupialia. By G. Elliott Smith, M.B. From an examination of the brain in *Platypus*, *Echidna*, *Perameles*, kangaroo, wallaby, kangaroo rat, *Dasyurus* and *Phalangista*, the superior commissure of the cerebrum is shown to be homologous with the psalterium of Placentalia, and not with the corpus callosum, since it is wholly derived, as shown by Weigert-Pal and Golgi staining, from cells of the fascia dentata and from

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the pyramidal cells of the hippocampus and subiculum cornu Ammonis. There is no true corpus callosum (as distinct from a psalterium) in any monotreme or marsupial. The hook-like appearance of the hippocampal commissure in sagittal section in marsupials, which led Flower to regard it as corpus callosum, simply corresponds to the shape of the hippocampus, which is coextensive with the lateral ventricle. In platypus only the dorsal limb of the hook is present, because there is only a rudimentary descending horn of the ventricle and hippocampus. In Eutheria only the ventral limb persists, because the upper and anterior part of the hippocampus disappears to allow a corpus callosum to appear in the situation occupied by the dorsal limb of the hippocampal commissure in Metatheria, i.e., ventral to the arcus marginalis. The fascia dentata, as a consequence of this, is essentially supracallosal. A doubt is expressed as to the presence of any structure in the submammalia strictly homologous to the Eutherian corpus callosum. The hypothesis is advanced that the latter structure appears (just as the hippocampal commissure does somewhat earlier) to supply the demand for a shorter connecting path for the great pallial development—essentially a mammalian feature. — 3) Descriptions of some new Species of Australian Coleoptera. By A. M. Lea. Descriptions are given of forty-nine species from New South Wales, mostly belonging to the *Anthicidae*. A remarkable *Protopalus* from the Tweed River is described, and a species of *Lagria* living in ants' nests. — 4) Botanical. — 5) Synonymy of some Australian and Tasmanian Mollusca. By John Brazier, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S. The Synonymy of twelve species is given with references and habitats — *Columbella attenuata*, Ang. = *Terebra Beddomei*, Petterd; *Natica Beddomei*, R. M. Johnston, = *N. effossa*, Boog Watson; *Terebra* (*Euryta*) *Harrisoni*, Ten.-Woods = *E. pulchella*, Ad. and Ang. = *T.* (*Euryta*) *Angasi*, Tryon; *Triforis scitulus*, A. Ad. = *T. fasciata*, Ten.-Woods; *Rissoia Strangei*, Braz. = *R. lineata*, Petterd; *R. Jacksoni*, Braz. = *R. badia*, Boog Watson; *R. Petterdi*, Braz. = *R. pulchella*, Petterd (the last three names being pre-occupied); *R. flamia*, Beddome = *R. Sophiae*, Braz.; *Cyclostrema Weldi*, = *immaculata*, Ten.-Woods, transferred to the Genus *Cirsonella*, Ang. = *C. australis*, Ang.; *Puncturella Harrisoni*, Bedd. = *R. Henniana*, Braz.; *Choristodon rubiginosum*, Ad. and Ang. = *Clementiana Tasmanica*, Petterd. — 6) Further Observations upon the anatomy of the integumentary Structures in the Muzzle of *Ornithorhynchus*. By J. T. Wilson, M.B., Professor of Anatomy, and C. J. Martin, M.B., B.Sc., Demonstrator of Physiology, in the University of Sydney. The authors specially deal with the details of structure of the »push-rods« in the skin of the snout of the platypus, and offer further confirmation of their views in opposition to a recent criticism of some of these by Professor E. B. Poulton. From evidence afforded by preparations stained by Golgi's silver method, and by means both of methylene blue and chloride of gold impregnations, they re-affirm their former statement that the shafts of the push-rods are traversed by a series of delicate fibrils which are neither more nor less than the end-branchings of the numerous axis cylinders which may be seen to enter the base of the rod. From the methylene blue impregnations they further corroborate their former observations upon the »lenticular bodies« in the base of the rod constructed upon a similar principle to that shown in a Grandry's corpuscle. The authors next give an account of the structure of the sweat-ducts and of their associated

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structures in the same region of skin. They express themselves as in agreement with Mr. Poulton's interpretation of the epidermic cylinder traversed by the superficial part of the sweat-duct, as a modified hair; and they further point out that not only structurally, but probably to some extent functionally, it corresponds to a sensitive hair, and is thus no mere vestige of ancestral whiskers. The authors differ entirely from Mr. Poulton with reference to the nature of the nerve terminations in the bulbous base of the epidermic cylinder aforesaid. They find that they are not of the nature of ganglion-cells as Mr. Poulton has described and figured them, but are in reality knob-like terminations of axis cylinders, precisely similar to those described and figured by Bonnet in the outer rootsheath of the sensitive hair of the snout of the pig. — 7) Description of the external Characters of a very young Specimen of *Ornithorhynchus*. By J. T. Wilson, M.B., Professor of Anatomy, Sydney University. — Mr. Brazier exhibited *Trochus Pfefferi*, Dohrn, *T. constellatus*, Souverbie, and *T. concavus*, Gmelin (this species having the aperture so oblique as to resemble a *Calyptraea*) from Lifau, Loyalty Islands, a new locality; collected by Mr. R. C. Rossiter. Also, *Calyptraea radians*, Lam., from Chili, West coast of S. America, to show how much it resembles *Trochus concavus*, Gmelin. — Mr. Woolrych exhibited specimens of snakes from Kenthurst, Dural, near Parramatta, including a death-adder (*Acanthophis antarctica*), with an unusual colour-pattern. — Mr. Lea exhibited the insects described in his paper; examples of a tick more than usually abundant at Manly this year; and the shell of a mollusc, *Cypraea mauritiana*, L., obtained alive some years ago at Long Bay—a species not previously recorded from N. S. Wales.

III. Personal-Notizen.

Heidelberg. Dr. Bela Haller hat sich als Privatdocent für Zoologie habilitiert.

Innsbruck. Dr. Karl Heider aus Berlin ist zum ordentlichen Professor der Zoologie an Stelle des in den Ruhestand tretenden Prof. Cam. Heller berufen worden. Briefe und Zusendungen erbittet sich derselbe unter der Adresse: Prof. Karl Heider, Innsbruck (Tirol), Universität.

Necrolog.

Am 5. November 1894 starb in St. Petersburg Hugo Christoph, bekannt als vorzüglicher Lepidopterolog.

Am 21. November 1894 starb in Charleston, S.C., Lewis R. Gibbes, ein besonders als Astronom und Mathematiker bekannter Gelehrter, welcher sich aber durch seine Revision der carcinologischen Sammlungen der Vereinigten Staaten und andere zoologische Arbeiten als Zoolog bewährt hat. Er war am 14. August 1810 in Charleston geboren und hat außer Mathematik in früherer Zeit auch Botanik und Zoologie an der Universität seiner Vaterstadt gelehrt.

Am 10. December 1894 starb in Annan Lodge, Perth, Dr. F. Buchanan White, Verfasser der Fauna Perthensis, Bearbeiter der Halobates-Ausbeute des »Challenger«, ein um die Naturgeschichte Schottlands sehr verdienter Forscher.

Berichtigung.

Auf p. 430, Zeile 22 von unten ist zu lesen »auch an verblichenen« anstatt »an gelblichen«.

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