

1894 zurück. Bei *Asterionella gracillima* geht die Differenz gegen das Vorjahr sogar bis über das 20fache hinaus. Auch von *Cyclops oithonoides* sind heuer sehr viel weniger Individuen vorhanden als 1894, nämlich 319 000 gegen 905 000.

Wenn E. Haeckel in Bezug auf das Meer gesagt hat, daß, wie gute und schlechte Wein- und Obstjahre, es auch reiche und dürftige Planktonjahre gebe, so hat das die völlig gleiche Anwendung auch auf die limnetische Organismenwelt unserer Landseen.

Die verschiedenen planktonischen Arten des Süßwassers gedeihen in den auf einander folgenden Jahren auch nicht immer gleich gut, sondern zeigen beträchtliche Schwankungen in ihren Mengenverhältnissen, deren genaue Feststellung aber sehr viel Zeit und Arbeit erfordern würde. Ich muß mich hier damit begnügen, an der Hand exacter Beobachtungen auf das Vorhandensein dieser merkwürdigen Oscillationen hinzuweisen, die unter Bedingungen einzutreten scheinen, welche für Süß- und Salzwasserbewohner ganz dieselben sind.

2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

July 31st, 1895. — 1) Catalogue of the described Coleoptera of Australia. Supplement Part I. — *Cicindelidae* and *Carabidae*. By George Masters. It is proposed to give as far as possible a complete list of all the Australian Coleoptera described since the year 1886, also to fill in the omissions previous to that date. The present part contains references to 429 species, besides many corrections, and additional localities. — 2) Australian *Termitidae*. Part I. By W. W. Froggatt. The author gives an account of the distribution of *Termites* in general and of the damage done by them, and passes on to a consideration of the habits and range of Australian forms, concluding with a general account of the structure of the termitaria of both the common mound-building species, and of those of *Eutermes* which form arboreal nests as well as on the ground. — 3) and 4) Botanical. — 5) On a new Cone from the Solomon Islands. By John Brazier, F.L.S. — Mr. Brazier exhibited a fine specimen of the ringed snake (*Vermicella annulata*) found under a large stone at the foot of the Waverley cemetery by Mr. Worth. — Mr. Brazier also exhibited a specimen of *Cardium vertebratum*, Jonas, from Keppel Bay, N. Queensland, named by Mr. E. A. Smith, of the British Museum: and he contributed a Note showing that the species in question has not so far been found on the coast of New South Wales, and that the shell exhibited by Mr. Hedley at the last Meeting as *C. vertebratum*, from Port Jackson, was not that species, but *C. flavum*, Linn. — Mr. A. H. Lucas exhibited specimens of Honey Ants (*Camponotus inflatus*), and Lizards collected by Prof. Baldwin Spencer in Central Australia, during the breeding season of 1895, comprising both sexes of *Amphibolurus pictus*, *A. maculatus*, and *A. reticulatus*, showing the sexual colouring; *Moloch horridus* (♀). Also specimens of *Egernia Stokesii* and *E. depressa*, the latter from Coolgardie. — Mr. North exhibited a series of specimens of *Zosterops caeruleascens*, and pointed out the seasonal variations in the plumage of this species. *Z. caeruleascens* of Latham (*Z. dorsalis*, Gould, Birds of Australia, Vol. IV. pl. 81), with the deep tawny-buff flanks and the grey throat shows the autumn and winter attire, and *T. (Dacnis) westernensis*: Quoy and Gaimard (Voyage de l'Astrolabe, T. I. p. 216, and Atlas, plate 11, fig. 4) with

the bright olive-yellow throat and very pale tawny-brown flanks, the spring and summer livery. Among the specimens exhibited by Mr. North and bearing out his statements was one captured in his garden at Ashfield on the 26th inst., which shows a transition from the winter to the spring plumage, the grey throat being faintly washed with olive-yellow, and the flanks nearly as pale as specimens obtained in the summer. *Z. westernensis*, Quoy and Gaim. and other writers, must therefore become a synonym of the older name *Z. caerulescens*, of Latham.

August 25th, 1895. — 1) On the Homology of the Palatine Process of the Mammalian Premaxillary. By R. Broom, MB., B.Sc. From its mode of development the author considers the palatine process of the maxillary to be a vomerine element developed as a splint to the cartilage of Jacobson. In marsupials, and probably some higher mammals this splint is ossified by a bony extension from the premaxillary; but in many other mammals it maintains for some time its independent existence, only anchylosing later with the premaxillary. In a few forms, such as *Ornithorhynchus*, and the common Australian insectivorous Bat (*Miniopterus*), it exists as a distinct bone throughout life. This bone is held to be the homologue of the lacertilian so-called vomer, and the name pre-vomer is proposed for it. — 2) Botanical. — 3) The Silurian Trilobites of New South Wales, with reference to those of other parts of Australia. Part III. *Phacopidae*. By R. Etheridge, junr., and John Mitchell. This important family is represented in the Silurian rocks of Australia by five species of *Phacops*, and one of *Hausmannia*; of these four are described as new. The Tasmanian forms are at present undescribed. — Mr. North exhibited a set of four eggs of *Turnix leucogaster*, recently described by him. The eggs were taken at Illamurta, Central Australia, on the 18th of June, 1895; and are of a buffy-white ground-colour, minutely freckled and sparingly spotted with different shades of chestnut-brown, purplish-brown, and violet-grey; an average specimen measuring 0.9×0.73 inch. — Mr. Steel showed a very large specimen of a ship-worm (*Teredo*) from redgum (?) piles in the fresh water of the Rewa River, Fiji, collected by Mr. T. Ferguson. — Mr. Froggatt showed a representative collection of some eighty named specimens of Australian Ants (*Formicidae*). Also specimens of a beetle (*Arthropterus brevis*, Westw.) belonging to the family *Paussidae*, captured in the nests of a common Australian Ant (*Ecatomma metallicum*). African species of this family commonly occur in such situations, but the exhibitor was unaware of any record of this habit in Australian species. — Mr. Henn exhibited, on behalf of Mrs. G. J. Waterhouse, a very fine collection of seventeen species of *Cypræidae*, found by herself and sons alive at low water in Port Jackson between the months of May and August of this year. Nine of the species have not been previously recorded from Port Jackson. — Mr. Edgar R. Waite exhibited a number of photographs of Tree Kangaroos (*Dendrolagus bennettianus*, De Vis), at present living in the Melbourne Zoological Gardens, sent by Mr. D. le Souëf. Some of the kangaroos are sitting on the topmost branches of the trees, which have been defoliated even to the extreme tips of the branches. Other photographs show the animals on the ground in truly macropine positions; but one in which the kangaroo is on »all fours« indicates that the fore limbs are probably being more freely used in terrestrial progression than usual.

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