

The youngest, newly-hatched, animals, I found, were short-legged, mite-like individuals of a size of hardly  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm, their longest, second ambulatory, leg about 5 mm. The tracheal system of the body is fully developed and easily found. It is far more difficult to find the two thin branches, which penetrate each leg between the muscles of the femur. I succeeded however to follow their running towards the tibia, where the branches became too small and escaped observation. External openings on the tibia do not exist in these young animals. Even in the much larger individuals from 3—5 mm, when the legs are greatly elongated and have nearly attained their full length, no trace of spiracles could be found, neither on the skin, nor on the tracheae within the tibia. In two or three of these larger animals, however, when seeking for the external opening, I observed in optical section of the leg, on the spot where, in the adult, the proximal stigma might be expected, a large, oblong, but thin-walled cavity beneath the skin. This cavity communicated by a very short air-tube with the tracheal trunk in the posterior part of the tibia, which is running very near.

Though many sections of the legs were prepared and carefully examined, yet they gave but negative results, owing to the difficulty of impregnating and the impossibility of maintaining the inner parts of the legs in their respective places. From the few facts, as stated above, we may, however, evidently deduce, the Opilionidae have true post-embryonic spiracles on the legs, which take their origin from the tracheae within the tibia at a time, when the feet are rapidly growing and the supply of air in those slender limbs becomes difficult. The next time the animal casts its skin, the external opening of the stigma will probably be formed by perforation of the tracheal cavity.

Though it seems therefore very clear, that want of air in the long legs is the principal causal moment, still many long legged Opilionidae of other families possess no spiracles, whereas they are always found even in the short-legged genera of the Family Phalangioidea.

## II. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

### 1. Zoological Society of London.

21st April, 1896. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March, and called special attention to a fine young female Gorilla (*Anthropopithecus gorilla*), from French Congoland, obtained by purchase; a young male Markhor (*Capra megaceros*), from the vicinity of Peshawar, British India, presented by Col. Paterson, March 18th; a pair of a rather scarce species of Duiker Antelope (*Cephalophus coronatus*), from West Africa, purchased; and a Silver-backed Fox (*Canis chama*), from Cape-Colony, presented by C. W.

Southey, Esq., of Culmstock, Schoombie Station, South Africa. — Mr. Sclater exhibited and made remarks on some specimens from Nyasaland, lately sent home by Sir H. H. Johnston, K.C.B. Amongst these was a fine head of the Sable Antelope (*Hippotragus niger*) from the Zomba plains, and an example of the Brindled Gnu (*Connochaetes gorgon*), or of a nearly allied form, believed to be the first specimen of this Antelope sent home from British East Africa. — Mr. Sclater also exhibited, by the kind permission of Mr. Justice Hopley, of Kimberley, a pair of horns of the so-called *Antelope triangularis*, said to have been obtained somewhere on the Zambesi. These horns were now generally supposed to be abnormal horns of the cow Eland. — Mr. W. E. de Winton gave an account of a small collection of Mammals from Ecuador, lately sent to the British Museum by Mr. L. Söderstrom, H.B.M. Consul at Quito. It contained examples of only three species, but two of these appeared to be new to science. One of them was a new Deer, proposed to be called *Pudua mephistopheles*, and the other a Rodent of the genus *Icthyomys*, which was named *I. Söderstromi*. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., read a paper on the Anatomy of a Grebe (*Aechmophorus major*), and added some remarks upon the Classification of the Charadriiform Birds, to which he considered the Auks to be more nearly related than to the Grebes. — A communication was read from Messrs. F. D. Godman, F.R.S., and O. Salvin, F.R.S., on the Butterflies of St. Vincent, Grenada, and the adjoining Islands, based on the collections made by Mr. Herbert H. Smith. — A communication was read from Miss E. M. Sharpe containing an account of the Lepidoptera obtained by Dr. Donaldson Smith during his recent expedition to Lake Rudolf. Examples of 91 species were obtained, of which two were apparently new. These were described as *Panopea walensensis* and *Papilio Donaldsoni*. — A second paper by Miss E. M. Sharpe contained an account of the Lepidoptera obtained by Mrs. E. Lort Phillips in Somaliland. Eighty-four species were enumerated, one of which, *Teracobus ludoviciae*, appeared to be undescribed. — A communication from Mr. W. F. Kirby contained descriptions of some Dragon-flies obtained by Mr. and Mrs. Lort Phillips in Somaliland. Three of these were described as new to science. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

## 2. The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

March 31, 1896. Mr. Collett on the morphology of the cranium and the auricular openings in the North European species of the family Strigidae; to which is added some recent opinions upon the systematic position of the Owls, by R. W. Shufeldt. — Prof. Henry A. Pilsbry called attention to a fine collection of barnacles obtained from the bottom of a vessel recently returned from a voyage to Hongkong from San Francisco and back by way of Java and India. *Balanus tintinabulum* was the commonest of the species represented, the varieties *zebra* and *spinus* although growing under identical conditions retained their individuality perfectly. — The question of the constancy of varietal characters was debated by Messrs. Sharp, Pilsbry and Heilprin. — Mr. Pilsbry also described a specimen of *Pugnus parvus*, a Ringiculate mollusk. The species is involute, a unique character, none of the fossil forms of the family possessing it. He also described a Central American Melanian under the name *Pachycheilus walli*. It is distinguished by a remarkable double sinuation of the outer lip which

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1896

Band/Volume: [19](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Sclater Philip Lutley

Artikel/Article: [1. Zoological Society of London 222-223](#)