

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 *Ichthyomys*, 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 walensis* 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, *Teracolus 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 *spinosus* 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

has a deep and wide Pleurtomoid sinus above and a rounded projecting lobe in the middle below which it is again retracted.

Entomological Section, Mr. Henry Skinner, Recorder. — March 25th, 1896. — Mr. Geo. H. Horn made a communication regarding the synonymy of the Elateridae. He specially described the prosternum of *Ludius*. A Lower California form had the prosternum of different shape from that of the other members of the genus, the mesosternum being more protuberant. It will probably be referred to *Probothrium*. — Mr. Chas. S. Welles exhibited specimens of the larva of *Harrisimemna trisignata*. When full grown they bore into wood preparatory to changing into crysalids. — A paper was read entitled »The breeding habits of *Periplaneta orientalis*«, by C. Few Seiss. Three females deposited twenty-five egg-cases. Each of these contain sixteen eggs to that a new generation of four hundred cockroaches was represented by the deposit. The first of these egg-cases were dropped May 5th. and May 14th, 1895, and were hatched November 9th. In most cases the deposits were dropped with no attempt at concealment although in a few instances they were placed in little trenches made by the insect and then covered up. The development of the capsules was described. The young probably receive no maternal care or protection. — M. Lancaster Thomas exhibited an improved form of insect net frame made of a continuous piece of rounded aluminum wire. — M. Westcott suggested linoleum as a substitute for cork in the arrangement of insects. Mr. Henry Skinner called attention to a fungus, *Polyporus betulinus* which might be used for the same purpose with advantage. — Mr. Wm. J. Fox stated he had about ninety species of *Hymenoptera*, six of which were perhaps new to science, and were included in the collections of insects brought by Mr. A. Donaldson Smith from Western Somali Land, Africa.

April 14, 1896. — In connection with the presentation of a collection of recent and fossil Strombidae Mr. H. A. Pilsbry discussed the ancestry of *Strombus costatus* and *Melongena subcoronata*, their relations to fossil species being illustrated by large suites of intermediate forms. — Mr. Jos. Willcox commented on the influence of environment on the species as illustrated by the specimens presented. It was apparent that those from the southern coasts of Florida swept by the Gulf Stream were all of a dwarfed type. — Mr. Benj. Sharp related the plentiful abundance of a Ctenophore, *Mneopsis Leidy* in a fresh water pond near Nantucket. The embryos had been swept in by an accession of salt water and had accustomed themselves to their new environment. The species did not however persist in the pond in consequence probably of the severity of the winter. Specimens of the species referred to were beautifully preserved in a two percent solution of formaline. — Mr. Pilsbry announced the finding by Mr. Chas. Johnson for the first time in the eocene of Texas of a representative of the genus *Scalpellum*. It is a new species for which the name *Chamberlaini* was proposed in recognition of the services of the Rev. Mr. L. T. Chamberlain to paleontological science.

### III. Personal-Notizen.

Herr Dr. J. Purcell befindet sich am Zoologischen Museum in Capstadt (Cape of Good Hope). Er bittet, für ihn bestimmte Sendungen dorthin, unter der Adresse: »Museum, Cape Town, South Africa« richten zu wollen.

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