

casian Wild Goat and of two species of Deer. — Mr. E. E. Austen gave an account of a journey undertaken by Mr. F. O. Pickard-Cambridge and the author up the Lower Amazons, on board Messrs. Siemens Bros. Cable S.S. 'Faraday,' for the purpose of making zoological collections on behalf of the British Museum. No terrestrial Mammals were met with, but observations were made on the two species of freshwater Dolphins (*Inia geoffroyensis* and *Sotalia tucuxi*, or *S. fluviatilis*), which are extremely abundant in the Lower Amazons. Among the Birds, the only species of special interest collected were a little Goatsucker from Manaos, referred provisionally to *Nyctiprogne leucopygia*, and a Woodpecker (*Ceuleus ochraceus*), of which the British Museum previously possessed but two specimens. The Reptiles and Amphibians met with all belonged to well-known and widely distributed forms, and the chief interest of the collections centred in the Invertebrates. Among these Mr. Pickard-Cambridge made a large collection of Spiders, including an extensive series of the large hairy Theraphosidae, eleven species of which were pronounced to be new. An interesting collection of the nests of some of these forms was also obtained. Mr. Cambridge likewise secured several specimens of *Peripatus*. Mr. Austen, who devoted himself chiefly to Insects, obtained some 2500 specimens of different orders, of which it was expected that a fair proportion would prove to be new. Attention was drawn to some interesting examples of mimicry. — Mr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, F.Z.S., read a "Contribution to the Anatomy of the Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus cristatus*).” He stated that from the characters of the alimentary canal, the Hoatzin might be placed either between the Sand-Grouse and the Pigeons, or between the Gallinae and the Cuculidae. He described some interesting individual variations in the condition of the ambiens muscle, and referred to other points in the muscular anatomy. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., gave an account of the occurrence of *Tomistoma Schlegeli* in the Malay Peninsula, and added some remarks on the atlas and axis of the Crocodilians. — A communication was read from Mr. W. Schaus containing notes on Walker's American types of Lepidoptera in the University Museum, Oxford. — Mr. Hamilton H. Druce, F.Z.S., read a paper entitled "Further Contributions to our Knowledge of the Bornean Lycaenidae," in which he referred to about 40 species of this family not hitherto recorded from Borneo. A number of these were new, and were now described by Mr. G. T. Bethune Baker and the author. — Mr. F. G. Parsons read a paper on the anatomy of *Petrogale xanthopus* as compared with that of other Kangaroos. — Dr. J. Anderson, F.R.S., communicated on behalf of Miss M. E. Durham some notes on the mode of swallowing eggs adopted by a South-African Snake, *Dasy-peltis scabra*, as observed in the specimens now living in the Society's Gardens, and illustrated by a series of drawings. — Mr. F. O. Pickard-Cambridge read a paper on the Spiders of the family Aviculariidae taken during the expedition up the Amazons previously described by Mr. Austen. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., read the description of a Gecko which he proposed to refer to a new genus and species as *Mimetoazon floweri*, in honour of Mr. Stanley Flower, who had obtained the specimen at Penang. — P. L. Selater, Secretary.

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May 27th, 1896. — 1) Observations on *Peripatus*. By Thomas Steel, F.C.S. In this paper is embodied an extended series of observations on the

habits and characteristics, food supply and life-history, with remarks on the individual range of colours, and relative proportions of the sexes, based on the examination of numerous living specimens of various ages kept under continuous observation for more than a year. — 2) Botanical. — 3) Description of a new Species of *Astridium* from New Britain. By C. Hedley, F.L.S., and Arthur Willey, D.Sc. *A. moniliferum*, n. sp., allied to the Japanese *A. triumphans*; dredged in 30—40 fathoms on a shelly bottom. — 4) On a rare Variation in the Shell of *Pterocera lambis*, Linn. By Arthur Willey, D.Sc. (Communicated by J. P. Hill, F.L.S.) A series of 67 specimens of this common tropical species from New Britain and the Eastern Archipelago of New Guinea has been examined. Numerous instances of substantive variation were met with, the more striking of which relate to the curvature of the digitations, their length, the intervals between them, and the extent to which the apical whorls of the shell are involved in, concealed by, or fused with the posterior digitation. There is also much variation as to the stage of growth at which the deposition of callus on the outer lip of the shell takes place. In three specimens only occurred an extra labial digitation, intercalated between the second and third normal ones. This is probably to be identified as corresponding with the fourth in *P. millepeda*, which has nine labial digitations, of which the intercalated ones are the second and fourth, and probably the seventh. The significance of the appearance, by variation, of an extra labial digitation in *P. lambis*, which has normally six, is recognised when it is remembered that in *P. elongata*, Sw., there are eight, in *P. violacea*, Sw., ten, and in *P. chiragra*, Linn., five. — Mr. Steel exhibited a fine series of beautifully preserved specimens of *Peripatus* from Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. — Mr. Froggatt exhibited living specimens (♂ and ♀) of *Coelostoma australe*, described in 1890 by Mr. Maskell in the Society's Proceedings (Second Series, v., 280). The male is a very beautiful and rare insect. Six were taken, round the stump upon which the female was found, the first examples the exhibitor had ever seen. — Mr. Froggatt also exhibited a number of the larvae of the Acacia Goat Moth [*Zeuzera* (*Eudoxyla*) *eucalypti*], victims of an attack of a fungoid growth allied to *Cordyceps*, and turned into "vegetable caterpillars," so called. Some of the specimens were cut out of the trunks of Acacias (*A. longifolia*) growing near Manly, in which they were found in the tunnels formed by the larvae. Others were from larvae taken alive and kept in breeding boxes; probably they had become infected previously, as after living for months they changed into similar hard masses. The late Mr. Olliff in one of his latest papers in the Agricultural Gazette upon Australian Entomophytes, in describing the hosts of *Cordyceps* says that it attacks only subterranean root-feeding larvae, and never those of true wood borers, as so often stated by entomologists. The specimens exhibited bear out his statements, for the fungus concerned is a species without the projecting clubbed growth, which would be at a disadvantage in the confined tunnels of a wood-boring caterpillar. It may belong to the genus *Xylostroma*, which is often found in the centre of decaying trees. — The President (Henry Deane, Esq.) exhibited a "Cotton-grass Snake" (*Typhlops* sp.) forwarded by Mr. A. G. Little from Menindie, N.S.W.

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