2. Zoological Society of London.

4th May, 1897. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of April 1897, and called attention to a young male specimen of the Wild Ass of Somaliland (*Equus somalicus*) and to a pair of Smith's Bronze-winged Pigeon (*Geophaps Smithi*), both acquired by purchase. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., exhibited a selection of the Mammals recently collected by Mr. A. Whyte during his expedition to the Nyika plateau and the Masuku mountains, North Nyasa. Mr. Thomas described as new a Squirrel (*Xerus lucifer*), brilliant rufous throughout, with a black dorsal patch; a Reed-rat (*Thryonomys Sclateri*), allied to *T. gregorianus*, but with a longer tail, whitish instead of yellowish underside, and narrower and differently shaped skull; a Mole-rat (*Georychus Whytei*), like *G. nimrodi*, but with longer and broader frontal premaxillary processes; a Pouched Mouse (*Saccostomus elegans*), of a general buff colour and with a longer head than *S. campestris*; and *Mus nyikae*, a Rat of the size of *Mus chrysophilus*, but darker in colour and with a more rounded skull. A new subgeneric term (*Gerbilliscus*) was suggested for *Gerbillus Boehmi*, Noack, of which Mr. Whyte had sent home specimens. Mr. Thomas also stadet that the peculiar bulbous-tipped tail-hairs described in *Petrodromus* proved to be confined to and characteristic of East African examples of the genus, which might therefore be specifically separated from the Zambezi forms as *P. sultani*. — Mr. Howard Saunders, F.Z.S., exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Henry Evans, a series of instantaneous photographs of the Great Grey Seal (*Halichoerus gryphus*) which had been taken in the Outer Hebrides. — Mr. J. E. S. Moore gave a general account, illustrated with the optical lantern, of the zoological results of his expedition to Lake Tanganyika in 1895 and 1896. Mr. Moore stated that the main object of the expedition had been to obtain materials for the morphological study of certain hitherto uninvestigated animal forms. It appeared that a key to the general interpretation of the lake-faunas of Central Africa would be most readily obtained by a study of their Molluscan Types. These showed that the faunas of most of the vast inland reservoirs of Africa were composed of normal lacustrine stocks, but that in Lake Tanganyika there were strange forms which certainly could not be included among such groups. All these forms appeared to have marine affinities; but, as they could not be directly associated with any living oceanic species, it was argued that they were probably the survivors of the marine fauna of some more ancient times, when Tanganyika was connected with the ocean. This theory was supported by the similarity of certain Tanganyika gastropods to ancient fossil shells. — A communication was read from Mr. Walter E. Collinge, F.Z.S., »On some European Slugs of the Genus *Arion*«. This memoir treated of the constancy of anatomical characters in the genus; of the reversion of a colour-variation noticed in a specimen of *Arion empiricorum*; of the specific validity of *Arion fuscus*; of a new species proposed to be called *Arion coeruleus*: and concluded with a synopsis and classification of the genus *Arion* and a list of the literature on the subject. — Mr. Sclater read a communication from Mr. Frederick J. Jackson, F.Z.S., containing field-notes on the Antelopes of Mau District, British East Africa, and made remarks on some of the species mentioned. — The Rev. H. S. Gorham, F.Z.S., contributed a paper on the Coleoptera of the family *Endomychidae* of the Eastern Hemisphere. Eighteen species were described, of which eleven

were characterized as new. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., read a note upon the presence of intercentra in the vertebral column of Birds. The existence of free intercentra in the caudal region was described in a number of genera belonging to many families of birds. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

18th May, 1897.— Mr. Sclater exhibited a plan of the new Zoological Garden attached to the Pará Museum, Brazil, and called attention to the description of it recently published in the 'Der Zoologische Garten' by Herr Meerwarth. — Mr. Sclater exhibited the skin of a Penguin which he had received in exchange from the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle of Paris as a specimen of *Microdyptes serresianus* (Oust.); and read a note from Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, according to which this specimen was only an immature example of the Rock-hopper Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysocome*). — Mr. R. E. Holding exhibited a skull of a Theban Goat (*Capra hircus*, var. *thebaica*), and made remarks on the shortening of the skull in this and other domesticated animals. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., read a paper entitled "A Revision of the Lizards of the Genus *Sceloporus*." From a study of the large mass of material in the British Museum, the author had come to the conclusion that the difficult genus *Sceloporus*, so far as was at present known, consisted of 32 species. Nearly all the specimens examined, with the exception of very young ones, had been measured, and their dimensions and the number of scales and femoral pores possessed by each of them were recorded in the paper. One new species (*Sceloporus asper*) was described. — Dr. G. Herbert Fowler read the second of a series of papers "On the Plankton of the Faeroe Channel," which dealt with the distribution of *Conchoecia maxima* (a midwater or mesoplankton form), with the European species of *Tomopteris*, and with the distribution of *Tracheloteuthis Riisei*. — Mr. Martin Jacoby contributed the second part of a paper "On the Phytophagous Coleoptera of Africa and Madagascar." Nine new genera and 80 new species of the families *Eumolpinae*, *Halticinae*, and *Galerucinae* were described. — Mr. W. G. Ridewood, F.Z.S., read a paper on the "Structure and Development of the Hyobranchial Skeleton of *Pelodytes punctatus*," in which he showed that the dismemberment of the hyoidean cornua, the formation of the lateral foramina, and the almost complete enclosure of the hyoglossal sinus — features which render the hyobranchial skeleton of the adult *Pelodytes* so remarkable — are peculiarities which arise quite late, when the metamorphosis is nearly complete. Allusion was made to the fact that the persistent inner boundary of the thyroid foramen develops into the thyrohyal of the adult, and the suggestion was thrown out that this might prove to be the normal mode of development for the thyrohyal in the Anura generally. The author also discussed the morphological value of the branchial spicula of the larva, and the mode of development of the antero-lateral and postero-lateral processes of the adult hyobranchial skeleton. — Messrs. Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., and R. Lydekker, F.R.S., contributed a paper on the number of grinding-teeth possessed by the Manatee. From an examination of several specimens of this animal it had been ascertained that the number of its grinding-teeth was not a fixed one, but that it developed a continuous and indefinite number to replace those which had become worn away by the sand which was necessarily present in somewhat large quantities in its food of water-weeds. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.