

read a paper on the Malagasy Genus of Rodents *Brachyuromys*, and entered into the question of the mutual relation of some of the groups of the *Muridae* (*Hesperomyinae*, *Microtinae*, *Murinae*, and *Spalacinae*) with each other and with the *Nesomyinae* of Madagascar. The Malagasy Rodentia were considered as forming a subfamily *Nesomyinae*, the lowest of *Muridae*, being forerunners of the American *Hesperomyinae*, the Old-World *Murinae* and the *Microtinae* (*Arvicolinae*). One of the genera from Madagascar (*Brachyuromys*) was stated to bear close affinities to a genus of the *Spalacidae*. Reasons were given for regarding the last-named family as only lowly-organized *Muridae*. P. L. Selater, Secretary.

3. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

April 28th, 1897. — 1) Botanical. — 2) Descriptions of the Nests and Eggs of three Species of Australian Birds. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. Descriptions are given of the eggs of *Cracticus rufescens*, De Vis, from the Herbert River, Q., *Sphenura Broadbenti*, McCoy, from the Otway Forest, Victoria, and *Dendrocygna Eytoni*, Gould, from the Macquarie River, N.S.W. — 3) On some new or little-known Australian Fishes. By J. Douglas Ogilby. Two new genera are characterised, namely, *Monothrix*, for a Brotulid allied to *Dinematichthys* but differing in the dentition, the uniradial ventrals, &c., and *Austrophycis*, for a Gadid, closely allied to *Physiculus* and *Silota*, with which it agrees in the forward position of the anal fin, but differs in the dentition and other particulars. Full diagnoses are given of the clupeid genera *Hyperlophus* and *Potamalosa*; and ten species of fishes are described as new. — 4) On the Development of the Port Jackson Shark (*Heterodontus Phillipi*). Part. i. Early Stages. By W. A. Haswell, M.A., D.Sc., Challis Professor of Biology, Sydney University. — The hope is not unreasonably sanguine that the embryonic development of a type so ancient as *Cestracion* (*Heterodontus*) might exhibit some important primitive features. With regard to the stages now described, however, any expectations of this kind cannot be said to have been fulfilled; and what impresses one most in the results is the extraordinary persistency of certain characteristics which are not known to have any vital significance. There can be little doubt, for example, that the orange spot which forms such a striking feature of the egg of an Elasmobranch in its early stages, has been handed down with but little change from Palaeozoic times. — 5) Description of a new Helix. By C. E. Beddome. The new species is near *H. Mossmani*, Brazier, in its markings, but differs in being umbilicated and white-lipped. Hab. — Yeppon, near Rockhampton, Q. — 6) Descriptions of new Species of Australian Land Planarians: with Notes on Collecting and Preserving. By Thomas Steel, F.C.S. Seven species of *Geoplana* from New South Wales and Queensland are described as new. — 7) Descriptions of new Species of Fijian Land Planarians. By Thomas Steel, F.C.S. One species of *Geoplana* and one of *Rhynchodemus* are described as new: and *Bipalium kewense*, Moseley, is recorded as common under logs on the Navua River, Viti Levu. — Mr. W. W. Froggatt exhibited specimens of the so-called Queensland Fruit Fly (*Halterophora capitata*, Wied, sp.) in the pupal, larval, and perfect forms, together with some apples from Inverell, N.S.W., showing how these are affected by the attacks of this destructive pest which has been reported from the northern parts of New South Wales as well as from Gosford and Penrith. Also spe-

cimens of potatoes from Colo Vale, attacked by white ants (*Termes* sp.) while in the ground before being dug up.—Mr. Steel exhibited a fine collection of well-preserved and displayed Land Planarians, representing the species described in his paper, and illustrating the modes of preservation and the results after the use of the various preservative media advocated therein.—

Mr. Steel, Note on *Peripatus*.

“I desire to place on record the occurrence in New South Wales of *P. oviparus*, Dendy, the Victorian form of *Peripatus*. While collecting in January of this year, between Exeter and Bundanoon (Moss Vale District), on turning over a log I noticed a *Peripatus* which from its attitude and general appearance specially attracted my attention. This proved to be a female specimen of the above species, and, so far as I am aware, this is the first occasion on which its occurrence in this colony has been definitely recorded. The lozenge-shaped pattern which characterises most of the specimens found in Victoria is well displayed; and the fact of the ovipositor being fully extruded in the specimen, which I now exhibit, is sufficient guarantee of its identity. When visiting the Australian Museum a few days ago I had an opportunity of examining the specimens of *Peripatus* preserved there, and I was interested in noticing that those collected by Mr. Helms in 1889 at Mt. Kosciusko belong to the same species. All of the females in the Museum collection from that locality, which I examined, have the ovipositor plainly visible, and in many of them it is fully extruded.”

4. Biologische Anstalt auf Helgoland.

In der Anstalt stehen statt der früheren vier von diesem Jahre an gleichzeitig sieben Arbeitsplätze für Zoologen und Botaniker zur Verfügung. Ich bitte die Herren Fachgenossen, die einen dieser Arbeitsplätze zu benutzen wünschen, sich möglichst bald an mich zu wenden. Die Benutzung der Arbeitsplätze ist im Allgemeinen bis auf eine geringe Abgabe an den Bibliotheksfonds kostenlos.

Helgoland, den 1. Juni 1897.

Der Director der Biologischen Anstalt
Heincke.



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