

no evidence that *Millepora* existed further back in history than what may be called geologically recent times.

If this conclusion is justified a question arises which it is difficult to answer. How are we to account for the wide distribution of *Millepora* in the W. Indies, Red Sea, Indian ocean and the Pacific if it had only a recent origin?

I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Herr Professor v. Zittel for his great kindness in allowing me to examine some specimens of corals in the Munich Museum.

## II. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

### 1. Zoological Society of London.

14th December, 1897.—The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November 1897. —Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., offered some further remarks upon the Siluroid Fish, *Vandellia cirrhosa*, and stated that he had made an experiment which satisfied him as to the possibility of the fish penetrating the male human urethra—a habit which has been attributed to it by various travellers in South America. —A communication was read from Dr. A. E. Goeldi, C.M.Z.S., "On *Lepidosiren paradoxa* from the Amazons." This memoir treated of the geographical distribution of the *Lepidosiren* on the Amazons, and of its external structure and dimensions, and gave an account of its habits in a natural and captive state.—Mr. J. Graham Kerr gave an account of his recent expedition, along with Mr. Budgett, to the Chaco of Paraguay in quest of *Lepidosiren*; and made remarks on its habits as there observed. Mr. Kerr also gave a general account of the early stages of its development, drawing special attention to the presence in the larva of external gills and a sucker similar to those of the Amphibia.—A communication was read from Dr. A. G. Butler, F.Z.S., containing a list of 33 species of Butterflies obtained by Mr. F. Gillett in Somaliland during the present year, and giving the dates of the capture of the specimens and their localities.—Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., read a paper entitled "On the Mammals obtained by Mr. A. Whyte in North Nyasaland, and presented to the British Museum by Sir H. H. Johnston, K.C.B.; being a fifth contribution to the Mammalogy of Nyasaland." This memoir contained notes on 61 species of Mammals, 4 of which were characterized as new, viz. *Macroscelides brachyrhynchus malosae*, *Crocidura lixa*, *Myosorex soulla*, and *Graphiurus Johnstoni*. —A communication was read from the Rev. O. Pickard Cambridge, F.R.S., describing a new genus and species of Acaridea (*Eatonia scopulifera*) from Algeria.—A communication by Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner, "On some Collections of Corals of the Family *Pocilloporidae* from the Southwest Pacific Ocean," was read by the author. Twenty species of the genus *Pocillopora* and one of the genus *Seriatopora* were enumerated and remarked upon, five species of the former genus being described as new, viz. *Pocillopora septata*, *P. obtusata*, *P. coronata*, *P. rugosa* and *P. glomerata*. —Mr. W. E. de Winton, F.Z.S., gave an account of a collection of Mammals from Morocco, made by Mr. E. Dodson on behalf of Mr. J. I. S. Whitaker.

Twenty-one species were enumerated as represented in the collection, of which the following were described as new:—*Crocidura Whitakeri*, *Mus peregrinus*, and *Lepus atlanticus*. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

## 2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

November 24th, 1897. — 1)—3) Botanical. — 4) On some Australian *Eleotrinae*. Part ii. By J. Douglas Ogilby. Five additional species of Australian eleotrans are described in this paper, namely—*Carassiops (Caulichthys) Guentheri*; *Carassiops (Austrogobio) Galii*, sp. nov.; *Kreffthius adpersus*; *Eleotris fuscus* and *Ophiorrhinus angustifrons*, sp. nov. — 5) On two new Australian Fishes. By J. Douglas Ogilby. The two species described are *Harengula stereolepis*, from Torres' Straits, and *Decapterus leptosomus*, a Mackerel-Scad which annually visits Port Jackson but has hitherto escaped notice. — 6) A Contribution to the Zoology of New Caledonia. By J. Douglas Ogilby. After alluding to the meagreness of our knowledge of the biology of the island, the author gives a list of the fresh-water fishes referable to six species brought back by Mr. Hedley, with observations thereon. He considers that the *Kuhlia* is fairly separable from the typical *rupestris* as a subspecies which he proposes to name *Hedleyi*, while for *Gobius crassilabris*, a herbivorous form with setaceous pharyngeals, he establishes the new genus *Trichopharynx*. — 7) On Australian *Termitidae*. Part iii. By W. W. Froggatt. Eleven species of *Termes*, of which ten are new, and seven species of *Eutermes*, of which five are new, are described. In most cases some account of the nests is also given. — 8) On new Marine Mollusca from the Solomon Islands and Australia. By John Brazier, C.M.Z.S. The Volute described at last Meeting from an imperfect specimen is redescribed from a perfect example which subsequently became available. Descriptions also are given of a new Cone from Flinders, Victoria, of two from the Solomon Islands, and of species of *Axinaea* from the Gippsland Lakes Entrance, Victoria. — 9) Observations on Papuan Land and Freshwater Shells, with Descriptions of new Species from New Guinea and Western Australia. By C. F. Ancey. (Communicated by C. Hedley.) From Western Australia the new species *Trachia Froggatti*, *T. orthocheila* and *T. monogramma* are described and figured from material collected by Mr. W. Froggatt. New Papuan shells from German New Guinea are *Sulcobasis leptocochlea* and *Chloritis Möllendorffi*, with which is figured *Pupina Beddomei*, described in an earlier volume of the Society's Proceedings. Critical observations on sundry Australian and Papuan shells conclude the paper. — Mr. Edgar R. Waite exhibited 1) examples of *Typhlops aluensis*, Blgr., from Wai Obi, Vuna Pi, Fiji, where they are known to the natives as "Naota." This species was previously known only from the Solomon Islands, and the new record supplies further evidence of the similarity of the faunas of the two Archipelagoes. 2) A New Zealand Fish (*Neptotichthys violaceus*, Hutton) recently caught in Port Jackson and the first recorded occurrence in Australian waters. 3) Two photographs, taken at Layson Island (Hawaiian Islands); one exhibits an immense concourse of Albatrosses (identified by Mr. A. J. North as *Diomedea immutabilis*, Rothschild) incubating their eggs.

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