

2. Zoological Society of London.

7th June, 1898.—The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of May 1898, and called special attention to a young female Mountain Zebra (*Equus zebra*) and a young male Leucoryx Antelope, acquired by purchase; a young male Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*), presented by the Hon. M. A. Bourke; and two Black-necked Swans (*Cygnus nigricollis*), hatched in the Gardens.—Mr. L. A. Borradaile, F.Z.S., read the second part of a paper on Crustaceans from the South Pacific. In this part 21 species of *Macrura anomala*, examples of which had been collected in the islands of Rotuma and Funafuti by Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner, were enumerated, and notes were given on several of them. Under the head of *Petrolisthes Lamarcki* the author proposed to unite a number of forms previously considered as specifically distinct.—A communication was read from Mr. A. E. Shipley, F.Z.S., containing an account of the Gephyrea or Unsegmented Worms collected by Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner at Rotuma and Funafuti. These comprised examples of two species of Echiuroidea and twelve of Sipunculoidea. Of the latter group two new species were described, viz. *Sipunculus rotumahensis* and *S. funafuti*, and *Physcosoma varians* was recorded for the first time from the Pacific.—Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., F.Z.S., read a fourth report on the additions to the Batrachian Collection in the Natural History Museum, containing a list of the species of this Class (115 in number), new or previously unrepresented, of which specimens had been added to the collection since November 1894. Eight new species were described in this paper.—Mr. G. A. Boulenger, on behalf of Count Peracca, gave an account of a new species of Newt (*Molge italica*), recently discovered in Southern Italy, and exhibited some living specimens of it.—A communication was read from Mr. L. W. Wigglesworth, entitled »Theories of the Origin of Secondary Sexual Characters«, which contained arguments in favour of the theory of the stimulation of parts to higher development through use or external violence or irritation, as observed in birds.—A communication was read from the Rev. O. Pickard Cambridge, F.R.S. It contained an account of a collection of Araneidea from Savoy, comprising examples of 24 species, one of which (*Gnaphosa molesta*) was described as new.

21st June, 1898.—Mr. J. Graham Kerr, F.Z.S., exhibited some specimens of Lepidosiren collected by him in the Gran Chaco of Paraguay during 1896-1897. The adult males exhibited the characteristically varying appearances of the hind limb in the periods before, during, and after the breeding-season. Mr. Kerr also exhibited specimens of the young of Lepidosiren, illustrating especially the external gills and sucker, the disappearance of these organs, and the change in the colour of the animal associated with the surrounding conditions of light or darkness.—A small collection of Teleostean Fishes collected in the same swamps in which Lepidosiren was found, and kindly identified by Mr. Boulenger, was also exhibited.—The Secretary called the attention of the Meeting to the arrival in the Society's Gardens of four living specimens of the Australian Lung-fish (*Ceratodus Forsteri*), deposited by Mr. D. O'Connor, who gave an account of the mode in which he had obtained them and brought them to England.—Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., exhibited specimens of the remarkable fish *Polypterus Lapradii*, from the Lower Congo. They were provided with highly developed

external opercular gills, the presence of which, he remarked, was not dependent on age, as had been heretofore supposed, because they were retained for a long period, if not, in some cases, throughout life. — Mr. R. E. Holding made some remarks on some interesting animals he had observed during a recent visit to the Zoological Gardens at Belle Vue, Manchester. — Prof. Howes exhibited, on behalf of Mr. E. W. L. Holt, a specimen of a new British Fish (*Argentina silus*), obtained 80 miles south-west of the Scilly Islands. — Mr. Abbott H. Thayer, of New York, explained his method of demonstrating, by actual experiments, the underlying principle of protective coloration in animals, and invited the Members present, and their friends, to witness an exhibition of his demonstrations which (as arranged with the Secretary) would take place in the Society's Gardens next day. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., read a memoir on the collection of Fishes made by Mr. J. E. S. Moore in Lake Tanganyika during his Expedition in 1895-1896. Twenty-six new species were described, of which eight were made the types of new genera. — Mr. R. I. Pocock read a paper on the Scorpions, Spiders, and Solifugae collected by Mr. C. S. Betton in East Africa between Mombasa and Uganda. Of the 7 species of Scorpions, 6 species of Solifugae, and 30 species of Spiders represented in the collection, 5 of the Solifugae and 12 of the Spiders were described as new, one species of the latter, viz. *Euratoscelus longiceps*, being made the type of a new genus. — A communication was read from Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner containing an account of the Fungoid Corals collected by him in the Central Pacific. Twenty-one species were treated of, of which 6 were described as new. It was proposed to absorb the genus *Tichoseris* into *Pavonia*, and the genera *Macandroseris*, *Coscinaraea*, and *Plesiocoris* into the genus *Psammocora*. — On behalf of Dr. A. Dugès, Mr. G. A. Boulenger communicated the description of a new genus of Ophidia, proposed to be called *Geatractus*, for the reception of *Geophis tecpanecus*, recently characterized by M. Dugès. — Dr. G. H. Fowler presented three papers relating to the surface and midwater collections made by him on H.M.S. 'Research' in the Faeroe Channel in 1896 and 1897. The first of these, by Mr. I. C. Thompson, dealt with the *Copepoda*; the second, by Mr. E. W. L. Holt, treated of the collection of Fish-larvae, and included an account of the larval ontogeny of *Scopelus glacialis*; and the third, by Dr. Fowler, contained a description of his new midwater net, and a discussion on the general features of the midwater fauna. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

3. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

April 27th, 1898. — (1) Some new Genera and Species of Fishes. By J. Douglas Ogilby. This paper contains diagnoses of five new genera and two new species, viz., *Cinetodus*, *Nedystoma*, and *Pachyula*, gg. nn., and *Arius Masteri*, sp. n. (Siluridae); *Aethoprora perspicillata*, sp. n. (Myctophidae); *Thysanophrys*, g. n. (Platycephalidae); and *Taeniomembras*, g. n. (Atherinidae). — (2) On the Affinities and Habits of *Thylacoleo*. By R. Broom, M.D., B.Sc. The author reopens a much-debated question in the light afforded by the interesting little fossil marsupial recently described by him under the name *Burramys parvus* [P.L.S.N.S.W. 1895, p. 563]. This little form, which is evidently the representative of a subfamily of the *Phalangeridae*, in most of

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