

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. *Eucratoscelus 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 *Maeandroseris*, *Coscinaraea*, and *Plesioceris* 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 Mastersi*, 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

its characters agrees with the Phalangers, but it possesses the greatly enlarged and grooved premolars of the Rat-Kangaroos; and not only does it show evidence of a group which fills the only remaining gap between the Kangaroos and the Phalangers, but as a Phalanger with the posterior premolars enormously enlarged it comes nearer to *Thylacoleo* than does any extinct or living form hitherto discovered. The conclusions arrived at are—That *Thylacoleo* is descended from a Phalangeroid form not very dissimilar from *Burramys*, and that it was almost certainly a purely carnivorous animal.—(3) Descriptions of new Australian Lepidoptera; with a Note on the Occurrence of *Deilephila livornica*, Esp., at Broken Hill, N.S.W. By Oswald Lower. Eighteen species referable to the families *Monocteniadae*, *Geometridae*, *Tortricidae*, *Gelechiidae*, and *Oecophoridae*, are described as new. The beautiful Spingid, *Deilephila livornica*, Esp., was noticed by the author to be common, during the early part of March last, at the electric lights at Broken Hill. On one occasion individuals were literally swarming. The species occurs in Europe, Africa, and S. Asia. It was first recorded from Australia by Mr. Miskin from a Queensland specimen. It is also known from Adelaide, but has not yet been reported from Victoria, Tasmania, or West Australia; nor has it been recorded previously from New South Wales.—(4) Botanical.—Mr. Hedley exhibited a specimen of fully developed *Gundlachia* recently taken by Mr. H. Leighton Kesteven from a pool in the Botanical Gardens, Sydney. This is the second instance of its occurrence in Australia, and the first in New South Wales. The genus has been treated of at some length in Vol. viii. (2nd Series) of the Society's Proceedings. Possibly no real *Ancylus* exists in Australia, and all those hitherto reported will ultimately be shown to assume occasionally and at rare intervals the *Gundlachia* form. Also photographs forwarded by Mr. Alex Morton, F.L.S., Curator of the Tasmanian Museum, of a gigantic fish-hook almost identical with that described in the last Volume of the Proceedings. The original was collected near Membare in British New Guinea by the surgeon of H.M.S. Wallaroo.—Mr. Froggatt exhibited a series of fruit-flies (*Tephritis Tryoni*, Froggatt, the Queensland Fruit-fly, *Halterophora capitata*, Wied., the European Fruit-fly, and *Trypeta* sp.), all of which had been bred out of fruit obtained in the neighbourhood of Sydney. Also samples of apple showing how the San José Scale (*Aspidiotus perniciosus*, Comst.) discolours the fruit which it attacks.—Mr. Ogilby exhibited the type of the new bathybial fish from Lore Howe Island described in his paper as *Aethoprora perspicillata*, and remarked that it may be distinguished from the three Atlantic species by the presence of a pair of supernumerary photophores between the upper angle of the eye and the anteorbital.—Mr. Brazier exhibited a monstrosity of *Placostylus fibratus*, Martyn, from New Caledonia, the spire of which is drawn out so as to give it the appearance of a *Scala*; it was collected by the late Mr. George Thomas Rossiter and is from his collection. Also a variety (three specimens) of *Risella plana*, Quoy, from Port Jackson, full and crenulated at the sutures, 2 mm. wide all round.—

4. British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Die 68. Versammlung der British Association wird vom 7. bis 14. September 1898 abgehalten werden. Vorsitzender der Section D. Zoology wird

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