

aufrecht erhalten wird. Ein hierauf sich beziehendes Experiment habe ich schon vor Jahren (1886) an den Philodinen einer anderen kleinen Wasseransammlung in Schlesien ausgeführt, die ebenfalls zeitweise der Austrocknung unterworfen ist, und habe die obige Schlußfolgerung, die ich schon damals gezogen hatte, bestätigt gefunden<sup>1</sup>.

Zwischen Hirschberg i. Schl. und dem nahe dabei gelegenen Dorfe Grunau liegt im freien Feld eine große, fußdicke Granitplatte, die als breiter Steg über einen Graben führt. In der Mitte dieser Platte befindet sich eine flache Höhlung, welche sich bei jedem Regenfall mit Wasser füllt und dann manchmal 2—3 Liter davon enthält. Natürlich verdunstet diese geringe Menge ebenfalls sehr schnell, wenn die Sommersonne darauf brennt oder der Wind darüber weht. Es liegt hier also genau derselbe Fall vor wie bei dem Taufbecken zu Bosau. Bei meiner damaligen Untersuchung der Fauna jener Granitplattenvertiefung fand ich ebenfalls Amöben (*A. guttula* Duj.), zahlreiche farblose Flagellaten, *Haematococcus pluvialis* A. Br., *Stephanosphaera pluvialis* Cohn und ganze Scharen von *Philodina roseola* vor. Das war im Jahr 1886, und 1852 war schon von Prof. Ferd. Cohn eine Organismenwelt von ganz der gleichen Zusammensetzung an derselben Stelle constatirt worden, so daß hier eine über 30 Jahre sich erstreckende Generationenfolge bei den in jenem engen Bezirk zur Ansiedelung gelangten Lebensformen nachweislich vorhanden gewesen ist und ohne Zweifel auch noch bis heute keine Unterbrechung erlitten hat, wie leicht festzustellen wäre.

Und hier wie da ist es eine Fauna rediviva von ganz demselben Character, welche der zeitweiligen Austrocknung mit stets gleichem Erfolg Jahrzehnte und wahrscheinlich auch Jahrhunderte hindurch widersteht. Die palingenetische Flora der Hirschberger Granitplattenhöhlung habe ich damals leider nicht berücksichtigt; sie wird aber höchst wahrscheinlich auch ihrerseits mit derjenigen des Bosauer Taufbeckens Ähnlichkeit haben, resp. sich aus denselben Gattungen wie diese recrutieren.

## II. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

### 1. Zoological Society of London.

29th November, 1898. — Mr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on some etched studies of the young Orang Outangs recently living in the Jardin des Plantes at Paris. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., exhibited a dancing-stick from New Guinea, to which were attached

<sup>1</sup> O. Zacharias, Können Rotatorien und Tardigrade nach vollständiger Austrocknung wieder aufleben oder nicht? *Biolog. Centralblatt*, VI. Bd. No. 8. 1886.

as ornaments two imperfect skulls of the rare Chelonian *Carettochelys insculpta*, a species previously known only from a single specimen in the Australian Museum, Sydney. — Mr. Boulenger also exhibited and made remarks upon a large female specimen of a Sea-Snake, *Distira Stokesi*, which had been caught by Mr. F. W. Townsend in Kurrachee Harbour covered with a thick growth of green seaweeds. — The Secretary read some extracts from a letter addressed to him by Mr. John S. Budgett, who had gone to the Gambia on a scientific expedition on behalf of the Society. — Mr. C. W. Andrews, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on some bird-remains which had been obtained from excavations at the Lake-dwellings near Glastonbury, Somersetshire, and among which were numerous bones of a Pelecan. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., read a letter which he had received from Señor Ameghino, C.M.Z.S., on the subject of the newly discovered Mammal *Neomyiodon*, giving further information, obtained from the Indians, as to its distribution, characters, and habits. — A communication was read from Dr. E. A. Goeldi, C.M.Z.S., on the Amazonian *Lepidosiren*, in which he recorded the capture of two further examples of this Dipnoan in the island of Marajo. Dr. Goeldi gave a short description of the physical features of the locality in which he had found *Lepidosiren* — a “pirisal” or papyrus-meadow. He also referred to the live specimen in his aquarium which had recently developed branches on its fore limbs. Dr. Goeldi pointed out the gill-like character of the fore limb, and adduced it as a support to the Gegenbaur theory of limbs. He also suggested the possibility that the so-called fore limb of *Lepidosiren* is not a true fore limb, but a persistent external gill. This paper was illustrated by the exhibition of three specimens of the Amazonian *Lepidosiren*, which Dr. Goeldi had forwarded for presentation to be British Museum. — Mr. F. G. Parsons, F.Z.S., read a paper on the anatomy of adult and foetal specimens of the Cape Jumping Hare (*Pedetes caffer*). In it the different systems—osseous, muscular, nervous, circulatory, digestive, &c.—were described in some detail, and contrasted with the corresponding parts in two Jerboas (*Dipus hirtipes* and *D. jerboa*). The author regarded the muscular system as furnishing the best clue to the position of the animal, and, considering all the evidence in his possession, looked upon *Pedetes* as being nearly akin to the Jerboas; but thought that, if a sharp line had to be drawn anywhere between the mouse-like and porcupine-like rodents, *Pedetes* should be placed on the hystricomorphine, and the Dipodidae on the myomorphine side of that line. The radial ossicle in the carpus, described by Bardeleben as a praepollex, was found to answer accurately to that writer’s description; but Mr. Parsons failed to find any proof which satisfied him of its digital nature. — A communication was read from Mr. F. O. Pickard-Cambridge on a small collection of Spiders from Trinidad, West Indies. Specimens of six species were contained in the collection, of which three described as new. — Mr. W. E. de Winton, F.Z.S., read some notes on the breeding of a female African Wild Ass (*Equus asinus*) in the Society’s Gardens, and called attention to certain facts as regards her offspring, which gave some support to the doctrine of telegony. — Mr. de Winton also read a paper describing the moulting of the King Penguin (*Aptenodytes Pennanti*), as observed in a specimen in the Society’s Gardens. The author remarked that the specimen in question had lived in the Gardens for sixteen months, and during that period had moulted only once. — A communication

was read from Dr. A. G. Butler, F.Z.S., on a collection of Butterflies made at Salisbury, Mashonaland, in 1898, by Mr. Guy A. K. Marshall. The collection contained specimens of sixty-five species, which were enumerated. Two new genera (*Torynesis* and *Tarsocera*) and one new species (*Aslanga Marshalli*) were described in the paper. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., read a third report on the additions to the Lizard Collection in the Natural History Museum, containing a list of this class (165 in number), new or previously unrepresented, of which specimens had been added to the collection since 1894. The following new species were described:—*Phyllodactylus siamensis*, *Anolis curtus*, *Diploglossus nuchalis*, *Varanus brevicauda*, *Arthroseps* (gen. nov.) *Wernerii*, *Lygosoma aignanum*, *L. Alfredi*, and *L. gastrostigma*. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

## 2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

September 28th, 1898. — Mr. W. W. Froggatt exhibited a twig from a fruit-tree obtained near Sydney which had 150 eggs of an undetermined grasshopper attached to it in a double row; also a number of the newly hatched young insects. These were of interest because of their remarkable resemblance to a common ant (*Iridomyrmex purpureus*, Sm.), which is plentiful in the orchards and bush about Sydney, hunting over the trees for food. It seems probable that this may be a case of protective mimicry, the grasshoppers perhaps being protected against the attacks of insectivorous birds, and the ants also deceived. Brunner has described a remarkable little *Phaneropterid* from the Soudan under the name of *Myrmecophana fallax* which is very like the insect exhibited. In Brunner's species the under part of the base of the abdomen is white, so that the grasshopper looks as if it had a stalked abdomen when viewed from the side. As the insect was wingless and without an ovipositor, it may have been immature like those exhibited. — Mr. J. Mitchell, of Newcastle, forwarded a brief note announcing his discovery of the print of an insect's wing in the shale overlying the Yard Seam of coal at the base of Flagstaff Hill, Newcastle. There was, he believed, no previous record of the presence of insect remains in rocks of the Permo-Carboniferous Age in New South Wales. He hoped to be able to exhibit the specimen at a future meeting. — Mr. Palmer exhibited a living Gecko, *Gymnodactylus platyrurus*, White, and a large snake, *Diemenia superciliosa*, Fischer, from the Blue Mountains. Also, from the Mountains, plants of two species of *Xerotes* (N.O. *Juncaceae*) with harsh cutting or wiry foliage, eaten down by stock, to show the inhospitable kind of fodder to which, under stress of circumstances, the mountain cattle become habituated, and upon which they manage to maintain themselves. Cattle brought from the lowlands do not, however, all at once or readily take kindly to such apparently unpromising forage plants.

October 26th, 1889. — 1) On *Carabidae* from West Australia, sent by Mr. A. M. Lea (with Descriptions of new Genera and Species, Synoptic Tables, &c.) By Thomas G. Sloane. The collection reported on comprises 134 species, of which 33 are described as new. The specimens were obtained in two widely separated districts, South-west Australia and the neighbourhood of Champion Bay, and the East Kimberley District. — 2) Descriptions of new Species of Australian Coleoptera. Part. v. By Arthur M. Lea. — 3) Bota-

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