

embryo leaves the needle it, in most cases, drops over on its side, but the position of its longitudinal axis remains the same. The position of the embryo on the strip accordingly depends on the direction of the axis of the needle when the embryo is placed. The exact position of the embryo with regard to the rulings can be arranged with the aid of a dissecting or a compound microscope as may be necessary.

As embryos handled in this way are surrounded by a very small quantity of oil, moving one does not change the position of others on the strip. When the embryos are in position, the strip is submerged in xylol (turpentine and chloroform serve nearly as well) for a minute or two. This removes the oil of cloves, hardens the collodion, and sticks the embryos in position.

The strip of linen, with the embryos on it, is then imbedded in paraffin. When preparing to section, scratch off the paraffin on the cloth side of the linen, catch hold of an edge, and strip it off. This will leave the embryos imbedded in the paraffin in the position they were placed on the linen. Should they remain sticking to the linen, too much collodion has been used. The lines ruled on the linen appear on the paraffin as ridges that indicate the direction that the objects are to be cut.

I have found it convenient to arrange small embryos in rows, each one definitely placed, fig. 4, and cut a whole row, sometimes as many as 20 embryos, in a single ribbon. The length of such a ribbon need not be more than the length of a cover glass, if the block is carefully trimmed.

A broad ribbon is not as likely to curve as a narrow one, and is more easily handled. When cut in this way, a number of series of embryos will be side by side where they can easily be compared.

In conclusion, it may be well to call attention to the two principal causes of failure in the use of this method. Embryos sometimes do not stick to the strip of linen when it is placed in xylol. This is due either to the presence of too much oil of cloves around the embryos, or to too small a quantity of collodion mixture on the strip. Again, embryos sometimes stick so firmly to the linen that they do not come off in the block of paraffin. This is because too much collodion mixture has been used.

Very few mistakes will be made, as the operator will soon learn how much collodion to use.

## 2. Zoological Society of London.

February 20th, 1900. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas exhibited a specimen of a Kangaroo from Northern Australia allied to *Macropus Eugenii*, but distinguished by its pale colour and long soft fur. It was proposed to name the species *M. Bedfordi*, after the Society's President, who had given the specimen to the British Museum. — Mr. Thomas also exhibited a Kangaroo from Western Australia, apparently referable to *Macropus robustus*, but separable subspecifically by its nearly uniform rufous fawn-colour. It was named *Ma-*

*caprus robustus cervinus*. — Mr. R. Lydekker exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Rowland Ward F.Z.S., the horns and skins of a male and female, in the winter coat, of the Sheep which, on the evidence of specimens in the summer dress, he had recently named *Ovis sairensis*. — Mr. Lydekker also exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Rowland Ward, the skull, horns, and skin of a remarkable Ibex obtained in the Altai, which he was inclined to refer provisionally to *Capra sibirica Dauvergnei*. — Mr. C. W. Andrews gave a brief account of the land-fauna and the general physical features of Christmas Island, accompanied by some lantern illustrations. He then read a paper on the marine fauna of that island, and pointed out that, the conditions being unfavourable, no systematic attempt to collect marine animals had been made, but that, nevertheless, a certain number of specimens had been obtained, which were enumerated and described in this paper by various specialists. Mr. E. A. Smith had determined 27 species of Mollusca, all common Indo-Pacific forms. Of the Corals Mr. H. M. Bernard had described about 22 species, referable to 15 genera, two of them, viz. *Goniastrea auricularis* and *Montipora spongilla*, being new. The Sponges had been determined by Mr. R. Kirkpatrick, and were referred to 31 species and 24 genera, of which six new species and two new varieties were described. From sand dredged from a depth of eleven fathoms Mr. F. C. Chapman had determined 24 species of Foraminifera. — Mr. R. Lydekker communicated a paper by Dr. Einar Lönnberg, of Upsala, containing the results of the dissection of the soft parts of several specimens of the Musk-Ox (*Ovibos moschatus*), obtained in Greenland during the recent Swedish Expedition under the direction of Prof. Nathorst. In addition to describing a number of points in connection with the viscera, the author showed that the Musk-Ox possessed suborbital face-glands, and that the female had four mammae, instead of (as was commonly supposed) two. He also pointed out that the upper lip lacked the median cleft which forms such an essential feature in the Sheep and Goats. The result of his observations was to indicate that this animal could not be regarded as a member of the Caprine group, while it was equally widely separated from the Bovinae. In the absence of a knowledge of the soft parts of the Takin (*Budorcas*), the author was unable to accept the suggested affinity of the Musk-Ox to that animal. Consequently, for the present at least, it might be regarded as representing a subfamily by itself. The author further called attention to the lack of knowledge of the visceral anatomy of the Antelopes, and stated his opinion that no true classification of these animals could be made until much work in this direction had been accomplished. — Mr. F. E. Beddard read a paper on the anatomy of an Earthworm, *Benhamia caecifera*, a specimen of which he had lately had sent to him from Ashanti. This species had been described by Dr. Benham in 1895, chiefly from external characters, no detailed account of its internal structure having been given. — A paper was read by Mr. Oldfield Thomas on the Mammals obtained by Mr. H. J. Mackinder during his recent expedition to Mount Kenya, British East Africa. Fourteen species from the mountain were enumerated, besides five others specimens of which had been obtained at Nairobi. Three species of Dassy (*Procavia*) were described: one (*P. Jacksoni*) from the Eldoma Ravine, like *P. abyssinica*, but with coarser fur and more prominent dorsal spot; a second (*P. Mackinderi*) from the alpine zone high up on Mount Kenya, like *P. Jacksoni* but larger and with much longer fur;

and a third (*P. Crawshayi*) from the forests at the foot of Mount Kenya allied to *P. valida*, but more rufous and with a whitish dorsal spot.

March 6th, 1900. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February 1900, and called special attention to two Tcheli Monkeys (*Macacus tcheliensis*), presented by Dr. S. W. Bushell, C.M.G., C.M.Z.S., on February 10th. — A report was read, drawn up by Mr. A. Thomson, the Assistant-Superintendent of the Society's Gardens, on the lepidopterous insects exhibited in the Insect-house during the year 1899, and a series of the specimens reared in it was laid upon the table. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., described eight new species of Reptiles and Batrachians from Borneo, which had been forwarded to him by Mr. R. Shelford, the Curator of the Sarawak Museum. One of them formed the type of a new genus proposed to be named *Lepturophis*. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., read a description of the brain of the Siamang (*Hylobates syndactylus*), based upon a specimen taken from an animal which had recently died in the Society's Gardens. The form of the brain did not appear to differ materially from that of other species of *Hylobates*. — A communication from Miss E. M. Bowdler Sharpe contained a list of 29 species of Butterflies of which specimens had been collected by Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote in the Bahama Islands in 1898. Of these one species, viz. *Papilio Bonhotei*, was described as new. — A communication was read from Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote, containing an account of the Mammals collected by Mr. T. H. Lyle, in Siam. The collection comprised specimens of 20 species, one of which, viz. *Petaurista Lylei*, was described as new, and the others were enumerated in the paper. A large series of specimens of a Squirrel, *Sciurus Finlaysoni*, was contained in the collection, and from an examination of them the author was able to corroborate Mr. Thomas's remarks (P. Z.S. 1898. p. 245) that, so far as our present knowledge is concerned, the variations met with in this species follow, apparently, none of the ordinary laws which are usually supposed to govern such cases. — Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, F.Z.S., contributed a paper on a small collection of Mammals brought home by Capt. H.H.P. Deasy from Central Asia. The most interesting specimens were three examples of the rare *Euchoreutes naso*, a novelty to the collection in the British Museum, and specimens of new species of Vole and Jerboa. The Vole, for which the name *Microtus lama* was proposed, was characterized by an external form and appearance similar to those of *M. Stracheyi*, but possessed teeth and skull like *M. Roylei*. The new Jerboa (*Dipus Deasyi*) was, similarly, like *D. Loftusi* Blanford, externally, but internally nearer to *D. lagopus* Licht. — Mr. Martin Jacoby read a paper on new species, one hundred in number, of Phytophagous Coleoptera from South and Central Africa. Three of the species were made types of new genera, viz., *Microhermesia hirticollis*, *Odontiomorpha minuta*, and *Estcourtiana bifasciata*. — P. L. Selater, Secretary.

### III. Personal-Notizen.

#### Notiz.

Da ich seit Anfang des Jahres an dem Zoologischen Museum der kais. Academie der Wissensch. in St.-Petersburg angestellt bin, bitte ich alle für mich bestimmten Sendungen dahin adressieren zu wollen. A. Skorikow.

# ZOBODAT - [www.zobodat.at](http://www.zobodat.at)

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1900

Band/Volume: [23](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Sclater Philip Lutley

Artikel/Article: [Zoological Society of London. 174-176](#)