

an einen Querschnitt durch eine Koralle mit ihrer Septenbildung. Das Ganze ist mit einem 0,016 mm hohen Epithel ausgekleidet.

An die dargelegten Befunde knüpfen sich nun die Fragen:

Findet bei *Cottus gobia* eine Copulation, eine innere Befruchtung statt? Persistiert das beschriebene Organ, oder erleidet es nach Abschluß der Laichzeit eine Rückbildung?

O. Nordqvist¹ hat kürzlich eine Notiz veröffentlicht, laut welcher er bei trächtigen Weibchen von *Cottus scorpius* und *Cottus quadricornis* Eier mit ziemlich vorgeschrittenen Embryonen fand, so daß bei den genannten Arten innere Befruchtung nachgewiesen ist. Ob eine solche auch bei unserer Art erfolgt, wird sich durch weitere Untersuchungen herausstellen. Ebenso ist die Lösung der zweiten Frage, ob das oben beschriebene Organ persistierend ist oder nicht, abzuwarten. Das muß sich in nächster Zeit, nach Beendigung des Laichgeschäftes, herausstellen.

II. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Bitte.

Mit einer Untersuchung der Epitrichialsculptur der Schlangen und Echsen beschäftigt, erlaube ich mir an alle Reptilienpfleger die ergebenste Bitte zu richten, mich durch Zusendung der bei der Häutung abgestreiften Häute solcher zu unterstützen, da nur diese sich zu den betreffenden Untersuchungen eignen. Ich brauche von jeder Art nur ein kleines Stück, aber von möglichst vielen Arten und auch von verschiedenen Unterarten einer Art. Jedes Stück müßte mit Namen der Art, womöglich auch mit genauer Angabe des Vaterlandes und Geschlechtes des betreffenden Exemplares versehen sein. Meine Adresse ist: Franz Poche, Wien, Langegasse 12.

Für alle etwaigen freundlichen Zusendungen erlaube ich mir im Voraus meinen besten Dank auszusprechen. Franz Poche.

2. Zoological Society of London.

March 20th, 1900. — Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell exhibited a collection of Land-Planarians made by Dr. Goeldi, C.M.Z.S., in Brazil. This, like many other collections of Land-Planarians, had been confided to Prof. Graff for description, and some of the specimens were the types of new species described by that author in his magnificent monograph on these animals. The collection before the Society had been sent to Mr. Sclater with the request that he would deposit it in the British Museum, where it would be a valuable

¹ Fiskeritidskrift för Finland. Årg. 8, No. 12. Dec. 1899. — Svensk Fiskeritidskrift. Årg. 6, Häft 3. p. 136. 1899.

and welcome addition to the already good collection in that institution. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., exhibited a specimen of *Polypterus Lapradii* Steindachner, with large external gills, recently brought home from the Senegal by M. P. Delhez. The fish measured 390 millimetres, and was therefore the largest on record in which this larval character had been retained. In connection with this interesting example, Mr. Boulenger also exhibited a full-grown female of the Common Newt (*Molge vulgaris*), from the environs of Vienna, bearing well-developed external gills. — Mr. S. L. Hinde read a series of field-notes on the Mammals which he had met with during five years' residence in East Africa, and illustrated them with lantern-slides from photographs of the animals taken in their native surroundings. Some of the points specially dwelt upon were the preservation of game-animals in East Africa, and the possibility of the acclimatization of East-African animals in the British Isles. — Mr. W. Bateson, F.R.S., exhibited a specimen of an Isopodous crustacean, *Asellus aquaticus*, in which one of the antennules was replaced by a well-formed mandible. The case was to be regarded as an instance of Homoeosis, or the transformation of one organ into the likeness of another with which it is in serial homology. — A communication was read from Mr. F. P. Bedford, F.Z.S., on the Echinoderms collected by himself and Mr. W. F. Lanchester in Singapore and Malacca. The paper dealt with 16 species of Echinoids and 17 species of Asteroids, and contained systematic details and notes on the habits and distribution of most of the species. One of the Echinoids (*Asthenosoma heteractis*) and two of the Asteroids (*Craspiduster glauconotus* and *Astropecten pleiacanthus*) were described as new. In the case of the new species of *Asthenosoma* some anatomical details, hitherto unnoticed in any Echinoids, but probably of more value from a morphological than from a systematic point of view, were briefly described. — Mr. F. E. Blaauw, C.M.Z.S., gave an account of the Zoological Garden of Berlin and of the progress which it had made under the management of the last three Directors — Dr. Bodinus, Dr. Max Schmidt, and Dr. L. Heck. He also made remarks on the principal animals observed during a recent visit to that Garden, and called special notice to the large series of specimens, from various localities, of some of the larger Mammals — such as the Lion, Tiger, Leopard, and Zebras — and to other remarkable objects in the Collection. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

April 3rd, 1900. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March 1900. — Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, F.Z.S., contributed a paper entitled "Notes on *Mus sylvaticus* and its Allies, Subspecies, and Geographical Variations." Several new subspecies were described, viz.: *M. s. Wintoni*, of Western Europe, to replace the name of *flavicollis*, now shown to be a synonym of *M. s. typicus*; *M. s. celticus*, a small dark form from Western Ireland and some other localities; *M. s. princeps*, a large bright form from Roumania; *M. s. tauricus*, a small red form from Asia Minor; *M. s. pallipes*, a pale form from Turkestan; and *M. s. draco*, a bright Chinese form. The subspecies of *Mus sylvaticus* already known were enumerated and described, and among them was included the fossil *M. Lewisi* Newton. *Mus argenteus* Temminck was regarded as the representative of *Mus sylvaticus* in Japan, and the position of the fossil species *M. orthodon* Hensel was discussed. An attempt was made to correlate the variations of *Mus sylvaticus* with those of other mam-

mals of similar distribution and even, in some cases, with those of birds, mollusca, and lepidoptera, and some of the general problems of mammalian variation were touched upon. — A communication was read from Mr. Stanley S. Flower, F.Z.S., containing an account of the Mammals of Siam and the Malay Peninsula. The number of species enumerated in the paper was 160, of which 15 were Primates, 7 Carnivora, 7 Insectivora, 42 Chiroptera, 36 Rodentia, 16 Ungulata, 5 Cetacea, 1 was a Sirenian, and 1 an Edentate. Numerous field-notes, containing the results of the author's personal observations of these mammals, were added. — Mr. A. Smith Woodward communicated a paper by Dr. Einar Lönnberg on a piece of skin, found along with the remains of *Grypothorium* in Cueva Eberhardt, Patagonia. A detailed description and comparison of the specimen led to the belief that it belonged to the extinct horse — *Onohippidium*. Dr. W. G. Ridewood added a note on the structure of the hair bordering two equine hoofs, probably foetal, found in the same cave by the La Plata Museum expedition. The hair agreed in most respects with that described by Dr. Lönnberg, and thus seemed to confirm his determination. — Mr. C. Warburton exhibited and described a remarkable new Attid Spider, *Mantisatta trucidans*, the chief characteristic of which was the possession of predaceous front legs, the spines being so arranged as to form a prehensile weapon. It had been taken in Borneo. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

III. Personal-Notizen.

Zool.-Zoot. Institut Graz. Am 18. März haben die Herren Dr. R. v. Stummer und Dr. G. v. Almásy eine auf ca. 7 Monate berechnete Reise nach Turkestan angetreten. Die Hauptaufgabe der Reise bildet die Erforschung der Fauna des Balkasch-Sees, sowie des Issyk-Kul, doch wird auch die Landfauna nicht vernachlässigt werden.

Necrolog.

Am 1. Januar starb in Budley-Salterton Edgar L. Layard, der Gründer des South African Museum in Capstadt, bekannt als Conchyliolog und Ornitholog, Verfasser der »Birds of South Africa«.

Am 24. Februar starb in Knowle bei Birmingham Mr. W. G. Blatch, ein um die Kenntnis der Käfer der Midland-Grafschaften Englands verdienter Entomolog.

Am 23. März starb in Wien Wilhelm Heinrich Waagen, Professor an der Universität Wien, Oberberggrath, der vortreffliche Paläontolog.

Am 1. April starb in London Dr. St. George Mivart, 73 Jahre alt, tüchtiger Zoolog, Evolutionist, der aber Darwin nur bis zu einem gewissen Punkte folgen zu können erklärte.



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