

interesting species had been procured, which were either new to science or to the fauna of the island. Among the former, which numbered 11, were mentioned a splendid Silver Pheasant, a remarkable Night-Heron, and a peculiar brown-and-white Jay of the genus *Urocissa*. The paper contained a complete account of the avifauna of Hainan as known at the present time. — Mr. Philip Crowley, F.Z.S., read a paper on the Rhopalocera collected by the late Mr. John Whitehead on the Five-Finger Mountains in the interior of Hainan. Specimens of 108 species were contained in the collection, of which 8 were described as new, and many others were recorded from that island for the first time. — Mr. J. S. Budgett, F.Z.S., read a paper entitled "Some Points in the Anatomy of *Polypterus*", as deduced from an examination of specimens lately procured by the author in the River Gambia. The urinogenital organs of the male and female *Polypterus* were described in detail; those of the male, it was believed, for the first time, while the description now given of the genital ducts in the female did not entirely agree with those of previous writers. The later stages in the formation of these organs were also described, and it was shown that the condition found in the Ganoid *Lepidosteus*, where the products of the testis are carried away by the tubules of the kidney, was not primitive. Some new points of interest in the vascular system were communicated, and reasons were given for not regarding the external gill of *Polypterus* as homologous with the hyoidean pseudobranch of *Acipenser*, but rather with the external gill of the Dipnoi and the Amphibia. The formation of the abdominal pores of *Polypterus* was also described, and the use of the enlarged anal fin of the male in the breeding-season was discussed. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger gave a list of the Fishes collected by Mr. J. S. Budgett, F.Z.S., during his recent expedition to the Gambia. Among these were examples of two new species, which were proposed to be named *Clarius Budgetti* and *Synodontis ocellifer*. Altogether specimens of 42 species of Fishes were obtained by Mr. Budgett from the river. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

March 28th, 1900. — 1) Descriptions of new Australian Lepidoptera By Oswald B. Lower. Thirty-nine species, referable to the families *Syn-tomididæ*, *Caradrinidæ*, *Ocneridæ*, *Selidosemidæ*, *Psychidæ*, *Zeuzeridæ*, *Ecophoridæ*, *Gelechiadæ*, and *Plutellidæ* are described. — 2) Descriptions of two new Lepidoptera (Rhopalocera) from New South Wales. By G. A. Waterhouse. A species of *Ogyris* from Como, near Sydney, and one of *Hesperilla*, from Mount Kembla, are described. The sexes of the former correspond in the same way as do those of *O. abrota*. The second insect is allied to *H. picta*, Leach. — 3) Botanical. — 4) On the Skeleton of the Snout and Os carunculæ of the Mammary Fœtus of Monotremes. By Professor J. T. Wilson, M.B., Ch.M. For the research three specimens were utilised. One was the fœtal *Ornithorhynchus*, whose external characters were described by the writer in a previous paper before the Society. Another was a more advanced specimen of *Ornithorhynchus*, whilst the third was an *Echidna* of about the same stage as the earlier of Professor W. N. Parker's specimens. All the stages were more advanced than those of *Echidna* lately investigated by Seydel. Wax-plate reconstructions of the anterior snout

region were exhibited together with serial photographs of the younger *Ornithorhynchus*. The following features are revealed and illustrated by the models: — 1) The complete continuity of the nasal floor cartilage and the extensive marginal cartilage of the upper lip, which in the adult are separated by the premaxillæ. 2) As a result of this continuity the premaxillæ arise each as two entirely distinct bony splints on the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the cartilaginous plate aforesaid. 3) The great forward expansion of the so-called rostral cartilage of the *Ornithorhynchus* is seen to be due to the forward growth of two bilateral alar expansions of the same cartilage, which tend to meet in front, after enclosing a deep notch corresponding to the hiatus described by Broom in the rostral cartilage of the adult. 4) The ventral lamellæ of the premaxillæ are provided with true palatine processes directed backwards paramesially. In the older of the two stages of *Ornithorhynchus* there exists, quite independently of the palatine process, and separated from it by a considerable interval, a separate ossification for the dump-bell-shaped bone, which is thus proved to be a perfectly distinct element — a true anterior vomer. 5) Anteriorly, the ventral premaxillary splints turn up dorsally in front of the anterior extremity of the snout in both *Ornithorhynchus* specimens, in the form of rather attenuated trabeculæ, lodged in the notch between the alar expansions of the rostral cartilage. Above this plane they fuse and are continued dorsally into a remarkable osseous mass which forms a definite skeletal foundation for the caruncle, and may therefore be named the os carunculæ. This is at its maximum development in the younger stage of *Ornithorhynchus*, and is undergoing resorption in the older; whilst in the *Echidna* model it is only represented by a small nodule of bone which has lost all connection with the premaxillæ. From Seydel's figures of earlier stages it is evident that the *Echidna* condition is originally identical with that of *Ornithorhynchus*, though it would appear to exist in a less exaggerated form. 6) The cartilaginous septum of both *Monotremes* exhibits an oval "internasal fenestra" immediately behind its anterior termination at the pre-rostral notch. A similar fenestra, according to W. K. Parker, is "a common feature in low Eutheria." — Mr. Percy Williams showed a beautiful specimen of the rare butterfly, *Heteronympha paradelpa*, Lower, from Berrima, N.S.W.; and he contributed a Note in reference to its capture. — Mr. A. J. Campbell, of Melbourne, exhibited a number of lantern slides illustrative of Australian birds, their nests and eggs, photographed under natural conditions. — Mr. Palmer contributed a note describing his experiences after being bitten by a black snake in February last. He also exhibited a snake which had attacked a member of his family; and a number of insects from Lawson. — Mr. Fletcher exhibited several specimens of a small freshwater crab which Mr. Whitelegge had kindly examined, and identified as *Hymenosoma lacustris*, Chilton. The species was originally described from New Zealand, but was subsequently obtained in Lord Howe Island by Mr. Whitelegge, who was a member of the Australian Museum party which visited the Island in 1887. The specimens exhibited were forwarded by Mr. E. Stuart Dove, who collected them in the north of Tasmania.

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