

Ils se sont modifiés d'une façon corrélative; et la manière d'être qu'ils ont acquise ainsi offre une telle netteté qu'ils composent actuellement une espèce nouvelle, aussi bien caractérisée que les autres espèces, plus anciennes, du genre *Atherina*.

A. Riqueti montre donc le cas curieux et intéressant d'une espèce de création récente, faite par l'adaptation aux eaux douces d'un être marin. Je lui ai donné son nom en souvenir de Riquet, l'ingénieur qui a conçu et creusé le Canal, et qui permit ainsi à cette espèce de prendre naissance.

Je n'insiste pas davantage sur un pareil sujet. Je me réserve de revenir plus tard sur lui, et de préciser plusieurs questions connexes. Je me borne à signaler l'existence de cette espèce, et à montrer l'importance, dans la discussion des problèmes de la biologie générale, des faits spéciaux étudiés à fond.

II. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

February 18th, 1902. — Mr. L. W. Byrne, F.Z.S., pointed out that the supposed new Sucker-fish which had been described by Mr. E. W. L. Holt and himself before the Society on November 15th, 1898, as *Lepadogaster stictopteryx*, was, in reality, not a new species, but was identical with *L. microcephalus* Brook. — Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks upon the skull of a supposed hybrid between the Sheep and the Pig, named "Cuino" by the inhabitants of Mexico, where it is stated to be extensively reared as an agricultural animal. The skull was clearly that of a Pig. — Dr. C. I. Forsyth Major, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks upon some remains of Voles from the Upper Val d'Arno (Italy) and from the Norwich Crag, representing *Microtus pliocaenicus* (Maj.) and *Microtus intermedius* (Newt.) Dr. Forsyth Major considered that they belonged to a distinct genus, which he proposed to name *Mimomys*. — Mr. R. Lydekker exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Rowland Ward, two pairs of antlers and a skull of an Elk from Siberia (beyond the Altai). Mr. Lydekker pointed out that, although belonging to adult animals (as the dentition of the skull indicated) the antlers had practically no palmation—a characteristic which induced him to propose the specific name *Alces Bedfordiae* for the Siberian Elk. — Dr. C. I. Forsyth Major, F.Z.S., gave a description of *Mustela palaeattica*, Weith., from the upper Miocene of Pikermi and Samos, based, chiefly on an almost perfect skull from Pikermi in the Turin Museum. Dr. Forsyth Major insisted upon the Musteline characters of the skull and teeth of the fossil species, which, on the strength of Weithofer's description, had been placed in the genus *Meles* by Schlosser, and in a new genus (*Promeles*) of the Melinae by Von Zittel. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.R.S., read a description of two new rodents discovered by Mr. P. O. Simons near Potosi, Bolivia. The one proposed to be called *Neotodon Simonsi* was allied to *Octodon*, but had simpler teeth, without enamel infoldings, and a bushy tail, the size and external appearance being much those of *Neotoma cinerea*. The second, called

Andinomys edax, was allied to *Phyllotis*, but had much larger, more complicated, and highly hypsodont teeth; in general appearance it was like a large *Phyllotis*, such as *Ph. Darwini*. Its head and body measured 160 mm and its tail 145 mm. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas also read a paper on some new Mammals from Northern Nyasaland, which had been contributed to the National Museum by Commissioner Alfred Sharpe, C.B., and Col. Manning. The species described were 1) *Colobus Sharpei*, coloured like *C. palliatus*, but with larger skull and thicker fur; 2) *Helogale varia*, with the head dark grey, much darker than the body, from Lake Mweru; 3) *Helogale victorina*, with buffy yellow belly and feet, from the Victoria Nyanza; and 4) *Funisciurus Yulei*, a Squirrel somewhat like *F. cepapi*, but with a pale tawny back and greyish-white feet, from Lake Mweru. — Mr. Boulenger, F.R.S., made remarks on the characters of the very young form of *Polypterus*, connecting the early stage recently discovered by Mr. Budgett with the more advanced stages described by Dr. Steindachner and himself. Characters were pointed out by which the young of *Polypteri Lapradii*, *congicus*, *Endlichevi*, *Weeksii*, *senegalus*, and *palmas* could be distinguished. Special attention was drawn to young specimens of *P. Lapradii* from Nigeria, in which the external gills measured up to one-third of the total length. — Mr. Boulenger also drew attention to a new Snake of the genus *Psammophis*, from Cape Colony, of which a specimen had been presented to the British Museum by Dr. G. Leighton. The name *P. Leightoni* was proposed for this new species. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., read a paper dealing with the tuft of vibrissae commonly met with upon the wrist of mammals belonging to the orders Lemuroidea, Carnivora, Rodentia, and Marsupialia. It was pointed out that this structure was found in both sexes and in a large proportion of the genera and species belonging to the mammalian groups mentioned. As to other Orders of mammals, the only Ungulate in which they had been discovered was stated to be *Hyrax*; of Edentates, the Armadillos alone possessed these vibrissae upon the wrist. — P. L. Selater, Secretary.

2. Naturvetenskapliga Studentsällskapet, Upsala.

Zoologische Section.

Sitzung, den 31. Jan. 1902.

S. P. Ekman, Phil. Cand., sprach über die Beziehungen der verschiedenen Formen der Cladocere *Bythotrephes longimanus* zu einander und über den localen Ursprung der Art. Ein Vergleich der in den nordschwedischen Provinzen Jämtland und Lappland lebenden Formen dieser Art mit denjenigen aus der Schweiz zeigte, daß erstere in der Organisation des Auges, des ersten Beinpaars und des Schwanzstachels der Gattung *Polyphemus* näher kommen, also ursprünglicher gebaut sind als letztere. Da außerdem eine beträchtlichere Größe der Thiere in den nördlichen Gegenden auf günstigere Lebensbedingungen hindeutet, muß die phyletische Entwicklung der Art in solchen subarktischen Gegenden stattgefunden haben. Die nördlichen Formen leben in kleinen Wassersammlungen, und das Tiefleben der schweizerischen Form ist als eine secundäre Abänderung zu bezeichnen und daraus zu erklären, daß unter den übrigens ungünstigen Lebensbedingungen die tieferen Wasserschichten dem Lebensbedürfnisse der Thiere am besten

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