

II. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

March 18th, 1902. — 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 1901, and a series of the specimens reared in it was laid upon the table. — Mr. R. E. Holding exhibited and made remarks upon some malformed antlers and horns of deer, sheep, and cattle. — Dr. H. Gadow, F.R.S., F.Z.S., read a paper "on the Evolution of Horns and Antlers." He stated that three main types could be distinguished in the evolution of the ornamental weapons on the heads of Ruminants, and that all these types were referable to an ancient condition in which the beginning weapon, be it one of offence or defence, appeared as a mere exostosis with a thickened skin-pad. This stage resembled that of *Dinoceras* of the Eocene. Secondly, there was found exostosis of the frontal bone producing a pedicle, surmounted by a cartilaginous mass of apical growth, which by subsequent basal ossification became an antler. Skin originally unaltered and hairy; this, and the chondrostoma or cartilaginous later osseous growth, was shed periodically and constituted the Cervine type. A side issue of type II. was that of pro-Giraffe-like animals. Cartilaginous growth preponderant, with multiple and broadened bases. Ossification delayed, but still proceeding from the base, *e. g.*, the *Samotherium* of the topmost Miocene. A further development of this type (II. *a*) was shown by the Giraffe, in which the outgrowth proliferated freely and now formed free growths, ossifying independently, of the cranial bones, but ultimately fusing with them. Type III. was a continuation of the main line from II., represented by the Prongbuck; predominant epidermal growth produced a horn-shoe, which was periodically shed, but had abolished the shedding of the bony core which represented the antler. Type IV., the highest stage, was represented by the hollow-horned Ruminants, in which the horn-shoe was now a permanent feature; but it was important to note that these animals still shed the first, or earliest, generation of the horny sheath. Horns and antlers were developed alike with a cartilaginous matrix, with subsequent ossification. These four types were an illustration of onward phyletic evolution, and these stages were still faithfully repeated in the development of the recent species: this was a clear instance where ontogeny was a shortened recapitulation of phylogeny. — Mr. R. Trimen, F.R.S., communicated a paper by Lieut.-Col. J. M. Fawcett, entitled "Notes on the Transformations of some South-African Lepidoptera." This memoir was in continuation of one by the same author, already published in the Society's 'Transactions.' It illustrated the earlier stages of 32 species, of which 6 belonged to the Rhopalocera and 26 to the Heterocera. As in the previous memoir, the *Sphingidae* and the several families of the Bombyces predominated in the series illustrated, and many of these were of special interest in connection with what was known of the earlier stages of the same groups of allied species in the Oriental Region. — Mr. R. I. Pocock, F.Z.S., gave an account of a new stridulating-organ discovered in the Scorpions belonging to the African genus *Parabuthus*. This organ consisted of a granular sharpened or finely ridged area upon the dorsal side of the seventh abdominal somite and of the first and second segments

of the tail. The sound was produced by scraping the point of the sting over these granular areas. — A communication from Dr. R. Broom, "on the Organ of Jacobson in the Elephant-Shrew," was read, in which the author showed that the organ of Jacobson, which in *Erinaceus* was of the Eutherian type, was in *Macroscelides* marsupial in all its details, and was most nearly comparable to that of *Perameles*. Pointing out that in the allied genera *Petrodromus* and *Rhynchocyon* marsupial characters had been discovered by Parker in the skull, the author concluded that *Macroscelides* was "a very near relation of the Marsupials, and had probably little affinity with the more typical Insectivores." Dr. Broom noted that *Macroscelides* had a discoidal deciduous placenta, and that its young were born in a well-developed condition. — A communication from Mr. Frederick Chapman contained an annotated list of the collections of Foraminifera and Ostracoda made by Dr. C. W. Andrews at Cocos Keeling Atoll in 1898. The collection of Foraminifera contained specimens of 76 species, and that of Ostracoda 28, including two new species, which were described in the paper. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., described three new species of fishes from the French Congo under the names *Allabenchelys longicauda* (gen. et sp. nov.), *Labeo lukulæ* (sp. nov.), and *Chilochromis Duponti* (gen. et sp. nov.).

April 15th, 1902. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie in March 1902, and called special attention to an example of an apparently new species of Monkey from Northern Uganda, proposed to be named *Cercopithecus otoleucus*, presented by Major Delmé-Radcliffe, to a Panda (*Aelurus fulgens*) from Northern India, obtained by purchase, and to a series of Indian birds, all new to the Collection, presented by Mr. E. W. Harper, F.Z.S., on March 29th. — On behalf of Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell, F.Z.S., were exhibited two arms of an injured Starfish of the genus *Luidia* from the west coast of Ireland, which had undergone repair at their ends. These regenerated parts were unlike the rest of the arm and had a striking, though not exact, resemblance to the free ends of the arms of an *Astropecten*. — Dr. Forsyth Major exhibited some selected specimens from a collection of fossil bones recently received by the Natural History Museum from Cyprus, where they had been discovered in caves by Miss Dorothy M. A. Bate. The remains proved to be those of a pigmy Hippopotamus, about half the size of *Hippopotamus amphibius*, and could not be distinguished from Cuvier's "*Petit Hippopotamus fossile*" (*H. minutus* Blainv.), which was smaller than the so-called "*H. minutus*" from Malta, and otherwise different. The fossils exhibited showed affinities on the one hand with the pigmy Hippopotamus of Western Africa, "*Choeropsis liberiensis*", on the other with some remains from the Lower Pliocene of Casino (Italy); they were considered by the exhibitor as a further illustration of the assumption that many of the Pleistocene Mammals of the Mediterranean Islands were the little-modified survivors of Tertiary forms from the adjoining continents, from which the islands had been severed during the Tertiary period. — Mr. W. P. Pycraft, F.Z.S., read the fifth part of his "Contributions to the Osteology of Birds", which dealt with the Falconiformes. The author, in the course of his remarks, pointed out that, although the Falconiformes were generally regarded as a desmognathous group of Birds, they were by no means so uniform as was generally supposed, schizognathism being fairly common. The desmognathy was directly derived from a schizognathous palate

of a Gruiform type, characterized by the presence of a pair of septomaxillary spurs. The schizognathous palates showed a modification of the original form of schizognathy in the suppression of the septomaxillary spurs. The desmognathism of the Falconiformes was of two kinds, indirect and direct, the latter being characteristic of the Falcons. This was a group furthermore peculiar in that they had suppressed the hemipterygoid — an element which was still quite distinct in all the other members of the Order. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., read a paper dealing with the sexual differences observed in the windpipe of the Condor. It also treated of a rudimentary equivalent of the septal flap of the right auriculo-ventricular valve met with in the hearts of that bird and of a form of Cuckoo (*Scythrops*). — A paper by Mr. Hesketh Prichard, F.Z.S., on the larger Mammals of Patagonia, contained field-notes on the Huemul (*Xenelaphus bisulcus*), the Puma (*Felis concolor*), Pearson's Puma (*Felis concolor* Pearsoni), the Patagonian Cavy (*Cavia patagonica*), and the Guanaco. The extraordinary tameness of the Huemul was dwelt upon. The habits of the Grey Puma (*Felis concolor*) were described, a contrast being pointed out between their method of killing their prey and that of the Jaguar (*Felis onca*). Pearson's Puma, a new subspecies of Puma, was alluded to as being much rarer than the Grey Puma, smaller, fiercer, and in colour reddish at the extremities. The fact of the distribution of the Cavy (*Cavia patagonica*) being arbitrarily limited in the neighbourhood of the 45th parallel of latitude was commented upon as being strange, inasmuch as there was no change either in the vegetation or in the nature of the ground to account for it. The habits of the Guanaco were also referred to at length. — Mr. F. Pickard Cambridge, F.Z.S., read a paper on the Spiders of the genus *Latrodectus*, which had a universally bad reputation of being extremely venomous in various parts of the world, although more exact evidence was required on this question. A list of the recognized species and subspecies was given. — A paper by Mr. Frank Finn, F.Z.S., contained some notes on the Painted Snipe (*Rostratula capensis*) and the Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*), of which birds he had recently presented some specimens to the Society's Gardens. — A paper by Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., contained descriptions of eight new species of Fishes from the Congo, forming part of a collection entrusted to him for study by the Director of the Royal Museum of Natural History in Brussels. The paper also contained a list of 41 species of Fishes from the Lindi River, Upper Congo, collected by M. Maurice Storms for the Brussels Museum. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

March 26th, 1902. — 1) A Note on two species of *Astraliu* from Port Jackson. By H. Leighton Kesteven. The author finds that *Astraliu fimbriatum*, Lamarck, and *A. tentoriforme*, Jonas, have, in Port Jackson, been united under the latter name. He finds that in the nepionic stage the former is very depressed, almost discoidal, and perspectively umbilicate; whilst the latter is trochiform and not umbilicate, at the same stage. They present the anomaly of two species easily separable in the nepionic stage, becoming so alike in the adult condition, that only by their opercula can some specimens be identified. — 2) Studies on Australian Mollusca. Pt. vi.

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