

2. Zoological Society of London,

2nd Decbr. 1879. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of October, amongst which special attention was called to a specimen of Elliot's Guinea-fowl (*Numida ellioti*), received from Eastern Africa. — A letter was read from Mr. E. L. Layard, F.Z.S., advocating the desirability of a fixed scale of colour for use among Naturalists, in describing the plumage and pelage of birds and other animals. — A letter was read from Mr. R. B. White, C.M.Z.S., of Medellin, U.S. of Colombia, S.A., on a mode of protecting plantations from the ravages of an ant (*Atta cephalotes*). — A communication was read from Dr. G. E. Dobson, C.M.Z.S., containing notes on some species of Chiroptera, from Zanzibar, with descriptions of new and rare species. — A communication was read from the Prince Ladislas Lubomirski, containing the description of a collection of Shells made in High Peru, by Messrs. Jelski and Stolzman. — Mr. G. French Angas, C.M.Z.S., read a paper in which he gave the descriptions of two new species of *Helix* (*Eurycratera*) from S.E. Betsileo, Madagascar. — Mr. Arthur G. Butler, F.Z.S., read a paper on some Arachnida of Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands in which an account was given of a collection of Spiders recently received by the British Museum from Réunion and Mauritius, through Mr. H. H. Slater. — Lieut.-Colonel H. H. Godwin-Austen, F.Z.S., and Mr. G. Nevill, C.M.Z.S., gave descriptions of two collections of Land shells obtained at Perak and in the Nicobar Islands by Surgeon-Major E. Townsend and Dr. F. Stolizka. — A communication was read from Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., containing a notice of a collection of Mammals and Reptiles recently received from Cyprus by Lord Lilford. — Dr. F. Day, F.Z.S., read a paper upon the Fishes of Weston-super-Mare, a locality he had lately visited in order to enquire into some species described by Yarrell and Couch as found on this coast. Mr. Day also gave some account of the results of Lord Ducie's trawling investigations in Ballinskelley Bay, on the Coast of Ireland, and described a specimen of the Long Flounder received from Mr. M. Dunn of Mevagissy in Cornwall. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

3. Linnean Society of London.

4th December 1879. — Mr. W. Carruther's exhibited a bottle of Pteropods, *Spirialis retroversus*, obtained in great abundance on the surface of the water of the Gareloch, Rossshire, Scotland, July 1879 by Dr. John Grieve. A letter from the latter was read giving an account of some of the habits of these interesting animals. They swam rapidly to the surface rising with a perpendicular fluttering motion, and having reached it raised the winglike appendages above their heads and thus upholding them motionless, would then drop quietly to the bottom. Some would stop half way down and paddle back to the surface, again to descend as above mentioned, but seldom or ever did they swim along the surface of the water. Dr. Grieve mentions that he did not observe them use their wings as feet to walk or crawl along the bottom as Agassiz states. — Prof. P. M. Duncan made a communication »On a Synthetic type of Ophiurid from the N. Atlantic«. The specimen in question was dredged by Dr. Wallich in the Voyage of H. M. S. , Bull Dog' 1860. On casual inspection it might be regarded as an Amphiuuran

but the spinulose disk and hooked side arms oppose this notion. Again resemblances to species of *Ophiothrix* suggest themselves but the large scaling of disk, absence of tooth papillae and presence of accessory pieces around the aboral edge of the upper arm plates are distinctive characters, and which to a certain extent are indicative of Ophiopleian affinities, but the dental apparatus does not conform. In shape and dental characters then it approaches *Amphiura*; spinules and arm hooks are those of *Ophiothrix*; and accessory plates resemble *Ophiulepis*. This remarkable Ophiuran was obtained at a depth of 228 fathoms, 50 miles north of Cape Valloe, East Greenland. With the difficulty of positively asserting its nearest affinities Prof. Duncan provisionally places it (*Polyopholis echinata*) among the family Amphiuridae, and remarks that such forms though rare shake confidence in some of the recent methods of classification of the group in question. — J. Murie.

IV. Personal-Notizen.

Dorpat. Der bisherige Assistent am Zoolog. Institut in Würzburg, Dr. Max Braun, ist zum Prosector am vergleichend-anatomischen Institut in Dorpat ernannt und wird diese Stellung Anfang Januar antreten.

Ein die Separat-Abdrücke betreffender Wunsch.

Wenn der Unterzeichnete fast jeden Morgen einen Separat-Abdruck, oft aber auch zwei bis drei Separat-Abdrücke zur Empfangnahme bereit liegen sieht, so kann sich der Empfänger nur über diese rege Thätigkeit freuen, mit welcher die zoologische Wissenschaft in ihrer Entwicklung gegenwärtig fortschreitet. Nimmt nun der Adressat diese Novitäten in die Hand, um sich über den Inhalt derselben zu informiren, so wird derselbe gar oft unangenehm berührt durch verschiedene, wenn auch dem Anschein nach ganz unbedeutende Ungehörigkeiten, die aber sehr leicht hätten vermieden werden können, da sie sich fast nur auf die Redaction dieser »Separata« beziehen.

Zunächst fällt es dem Leser (dem Unterzeichneten wenigstens) schon auf, wenn die Broschüre separat paginirt ist; was helfen solche Broschüren, welche man wegen ihrer separaten Paginirung nicht gut citiren kann, besonders wenn dabei noch der Titel der Zeitschriften oder der vielen Gesellschafts- und Jahres-Berichte sammt Angaben des Bandes und Jahrganges fehlt. Möchte doch in Deutschland das Verfahren Nachahmung finden, welches mit den versendeten englischen und französischen Separat-Abdrücken stets eingehalten wird. Ueber die Abkunft solcher Separat-Abdrücke ist der Empfänger stets auf den ersten Blick orientirt.

Ein Freund der zoologischen Litteratur.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1879

Band/Volume: [2](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Murie J.

Artikel/Article: [3. Linnean Society of London 671-672](#)