

schon vollkommen verschwunden ist. Weitere Entwicklungsstadien standen mir nicht zur Verfügung, ich habe aber zum Vergleich einige Schnitte durch Spiritusexemplare beinahe erwachsener Tiere angefertigt.

Es hat sich dabei herausgestellt, daß der definitive Hautpanzer von *Syngnathus* der Hauptsache nach aus zellhaltigem Knochengewebe besteht und nur die tiefste Schicht vollkommen zellenlos ist.

Daß diese tiefste zellenlose Schicht den Bildungen entspricht, deren Entwicklung wir bereits verfolgt haben, tritt mit besonderer Deutlichkeit an den Schnitten durch unvollkommen entkalkte Exemplare hervor, wo beim Schneiden die zellenlose Schicht von der zellhaltigen öfters abgespalten wird, und an der Fläche, an welcher sie mit der nach außen liegenden zellhaltigen Schicht in Berührung steht, deutlich die uns schon bekannten Kämme zeigt. Die Hauptmasse des definitiven Hautpanzers wird also von Knochengewebe gebildet, welches in dem Bindegewebe zwischen den eingesenkten ectodermalen Anlagen und der Epidermis entsteht.

Zum Schlusse möchte ich noch einmal ausdrücklich betonen, daß die oben geschilderten Vorgänge auf die erste Hartsubstanzbildung sich beziehen, und daß in späteren Stadien überall im Bindegewebe Verknochenerungen entstehen, welche mit den primären Hartsubstanzbildungen in Verbindung treten.

II. Mitteilungen aus Museen, Instituten usw.

Linnean Society of New South Wales.

Abstract of proceedings, August 29th, 1906. — The President exhibited living specimens, sent by Mr. H. W. Davey from Portland, Victoria, of *Ooperipatus oviparus*, and the following land planarians: — *Geoplana McMahoni*, *G. sanguinea*, and *G. sugdeni*. — Mr. D. G. Stead exhibited specimens of the following species of Syngnathid, Pipe-Fishes: — *Syngnathus tigris* Castlenau, from Hawkesbury River; *Urocampus carinirostris* Castlenau, from Smith's Lake and Lake Illawarra; *Stigmatophora argus* Richardson, from Port Jackson and Hawkesbury River; *Stigmatophora nigra* Kaup, from Tuggerah Lake; and *Gasterotokeus biaculeatus* Bloch, from Tuggerah Lake and Bateman's Bay. Mr. Stead also offered some remarks upon the breeding habits of the Sea-Horses and Pipe-Fishes in general. — Mr. North sent for exhibition a skin of an adult male of the so called *Cracticus leucopterus* of Gould, procured on the 24th July, 1906, by Mr. Tom Carter, of Broome Hill, Western Australia, together with the following note: — "In the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum'¹ Dr. H. Gadow regards *C. leucopterus* as specifically distinct from *C. destructor* Temm., and gives its habitat as North-eastern and Western Australia. In Vol. ii. of the Australian Museum Special Catalogue, No. i., 'Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding

¹ Vol. VIII. p. 98 (1883).

in Australia and Tasmania,' now passing through the press, I pointed out that the distinguishing characters given by Dr. Gadow to *C. leucopterus* were equally applicable to very old males of *C. destructor*, but for want of adult specimens from Western Australia I was unable to state whether *C. leucopterus* should be regarded as a distinct species. In Dr. R. B. Sharpe's 'Handlist of Birds'² full specific rank is accorded to *C. leucopterus*. As Dr. Gadow stated of the latter, there is no difference in size between the specimens from Queensland and those from Perth. I was not surprised to find that the eastern and western birds are alike. The specimen received from Mr. Carter is precisely similar in colour, the extent of white on the wing, and measurements to another adult male of *C. destructor* exhibited, and obtained by Mr. R. Grant at Cambewarra, N.S.W. *C. leucopterus* Gould, should therefore rank as a synonym of *C. destructor* Temm." — Mr. North also drew attention to the early breeding of several species of birds in the neighbourhood of Sydney, probably owing to the unusually fine and dry weather for months past. The prolific autumn breeders, *Meliornis novae-hollandiae* and *M. sericea*, had continued nesting throughout the usual break in June and July between the early autumn and winter breeders. *Origma rubricata* had been found breeding near Manly by Mr. A. F. B. Hull in June, and by Mr. L. Harrison in July. At Middle Harbour Mr. North saw fully fledged young of *Ptilotis leucotis* on the 15th August, being fed by their parents, and at Chatswood obtained the nest and fledglings of *Melithreptus brevirostris*. At Roseville fledglings of *Melithreptus lunulatus* left the nest on the 17th instant. Of ordinary breeders at this time of the year, nests with eggs or young have been noted, during August, of *Glycyphila fulvifrons*, *Meliornis novae-hollandiae*, *M. sericea*, *Geobasileus chrysorrhous*, and *Acanthiza pusilla*. For eight consecutive years at Middle Harbour Mr. North had noted the nests of *Origma rubricata* built in two cave-like shelters, and attached to the same flakes of rock, one of the nests at present nearing completion, the other containing three fresh eggs. — Mr. Fletcher exhibited, on behalf of Miss M. Lodder, of Launceston, some small fishes 1-2 inches long, which Mr. Masters had been good enough to examine, and had found them to be the young of a species of *Galaxias*. They were obtained at West Strahan, Tasmania, in the early part of the year, in an unusually dry season; and the point of interest about them was that they were dug up in damp soil remote from any water. Similar specimens had been previously brought to light in digging drains, post-holes, &c.; and acting on this information, and with the help of some boys who knew of these occurrences, Miss Lodder had no difficulty in finding patches of ground where the fishes could be turned up with a spade. The explanation of the matter seemed to be that the fishes were aestivating in damp soil representing the bed of a water-hole which had dried up. — 2) The Mollusca of Masthead Reef, Capricorn Group, Queensland. Part. i. By C. Hedley, F.L.S. On the east coast of Australia the best known points, from the view of a marine zoologist, are Torre Strait and the neighbourhood of Sydney. To investigate an intermediate station, the writer organised an expedition to the south end of the Barrier Reef. Masthead Island just outside the tropic of Capricorn was selected for examination. The island and surrounding reef are described and compared with

² Vol. IV. p. 277 (1903).

the coral islands of the Central Pacific. The zonal distribution of coral-haunting mollusca is reviewed. Of Brachiopoda Cephalopoda, Polyplacophora and Pelecypoda, a hundred and two species are enumerated. Of these forty-two were not known to occur in Queensland, and twenty-five are new records for Australia. The most interesting novelty is a new genus of the Veneridae, which conceals its shell with a coat of sand; and which it is proposed to distinguish as *Granicorium*. Fourteen other new species are distributed in the genera *Glycymeris* (2), *Philobrya* (2), *Modiolaria*, *Myodora*, *Verticordia*, *Crassatellites*, *Cuna*, *Condylocardia* (2), *Cardium*, *Gafrarium* and *Abra*. Most of the shells were obtained by the dredge in seventeen to twenty fathoms outside the reef. A series of lantern slides was shown in illustration of the paper. — 3) New Australian Species of the Family Libellulidae [Neuroptera: Odonata]. By R. J. Tillyard, B.A. — In this paper eleven new species are added to the list of Australian Libellulidae, bringing the total up from 50 to 61. All the new species were taken in the Cairns district of North Queensland during the summer of 1904-05. Of these, three only are new to science. The remainder are species already known in other parts of the world, but so far unobserved in Australia. Of the new species, one, represented by a single female, belongs to the beautiful genus *Rhyothemis*. A second is a *Synthemis* and closely allied to several common Southern Australian forms already described. A third adds as new genus (*Macromia*) to the Australian list. Of the eight remaining species, one is common in South Europe, Africa and the East Indies; four others occur in the East Indies, India and Ceylon; two in New Guinea; and one, hitherto known from the male only, in Borneo. Altogether six new genera are added to the Australian list, viz., *Zyxomma*, *Erythemis*, *Macrodiplax*, *Agrionoptera*, *Tetrathemis* and *Macromia*. In two of the new species the males have yet to be discovered. — 4) Note on the Cerebral Localisation in the Bandicoot (*Perameles*). By H. G. Chapman, M.D., B.S., Demonstrator of Physiology in the University of Sydney. [From the Physiological Laboratory of the University of Sydney.] — The positions of the cortical motor centres in the brains of marsupials have been described in the opossum (*Didelphys virginiana*) by Ziehen, and by R. Cunningham; and in the native cat (*Dasyurus virrerrinus*) by Flashman. The results of an investigation of the motor areas observed in *Perameles nasuta* and *P. obesula* are communicated in the present paper. The centres described have been found regularly in each animal and on both sides of the brain. The movements obtained by stimulation of the appropriate cortex have been — 1) Retraction of the head with rotation of the face towards the opposite side; 2) rotation of the opposite fore-limb with backward movement of the shoulder; 3) extension of the opposite hind-limb and contraction of the muscles of the back; 4) abduction and adduction of the tail; 5) closure of the opposite eyelid. All the movements obtained were crossed. Other limb-movements were noted by stimulation in the vicinity of those mentioned above, but were not constantly found.

III. Personal-Notizen.

Als Professor der Zoologie an die Forstakademie in Tharandt ist Herr Dr. med. et phil. Karl Escherich, Privatdozent an der Universität Straßburg, berufen worden und wird Anfang des nächsten Jahres dorthin übersiedeln.

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1906

Band/Volume: [30](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Anonym

Artikel/Article: [Linnean Society of New South Wales. 861-863](#)