

untersuchen, weshalb ich nur als Vermuthung aussprechen darf, dass das Gefäßsystem des jungen *Balanoglossus* aus Muskelepithel besteht und somit auch in dieser Beziehung mit jungen Synapten übereinstimmt. Die histologische Ähnlichkeit erstreckt sich auch auf die Musculatur des Vorderdarms von *Tornaria*, welche aus ganz gleichen feinen Ringmuskelfibrillen besteht, wie bei sämtlichen typischen Echinodermenlarven. Wie bei den letzteren, ist der Vorderdarm der einzige Darmabschnitt der *Tornaria*, welcher deutliche Contractionen zeigt und eine eigene Musculatur besitzt.

(Schluss folgt.)

4. On the Female Organs and Placentation of the Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

By Morr. Watson, M.D., Professor of Anatomy in the Owens College, Manchester. (Abstract.)

The paper contains an anatomical description of the Female Organs and Placenta of the Raccoon. The specimen examined contained but a single foetus which was lodged in the right horn of the uterus. The uterine mucous membrane of the unimpregnated horn was richly supplied with glands which presented the usual structure. In the non-placental area of the gravid horn these glands although present were evidently undergoing degeneration and were with difficulty recognised and then only in a fragmentary condition; whilst in the placental area of the uterine mucous membrane these glands had entirely disappeared.

The author's observations upon the placenta of *Procyon lotor* show that in respect of this organ

1) *Procyon* agrees with all other Carnivora in which that organ has been hitherto examined in the possession of a zonary or annular placenta;

2) That *Procyon* agrees with all of these in the mode of interlocking of the foetal and maternal portions of its placenta and in the consequent deciduate character of that organ;

3) That *Procyon* agrees with the members of the plantigrade section, at the same time that it differs from those composing both the digitigrade and pinniped sections of the Carnivora in as much as at one spot the placenta presents a deficiency or gap, at which spot the placental structure is imperfect.

4) That *Procyon* agrees with *Canis* at the same time that it differs from *Felis* in the absence of a continuous layer of Decidua serotina from the uterine surface of the detached placenta.

5) That *Procyon* differs from every other Carnivore, the placenta of which has been minutely examined, in the possession of placental

vessels possessed of a structure hitherto only met with in the placenta of *Choloepus Hoffmanni* among the Edentates.

6) That *Procyon* differs from every other Carnivore, the foetus of which has been hitherto examined, in the non-possession by the latter of an umbilical vesicle.

7) That *Procyon* differs from all Carnivora, of which the young have been hitherto examined, in as much as the foetus is provided with a supernumerary cuticle or Epitrichium — a structure, which has only been met with in the young of certain members of other mammalian groups.

From an examination of the various facts detailed in the paper the author arrives at the conclusion that a consideration of the modifications in form and structure of the placenta alone is insufficient as affording a basis upon which to found a natural classification of the Mammalia.

III. Mittheilungen aus Instituten, Gesellschaften etc.

1. Linnean Society of London.

December 16th 1880. — The only zoological contribution read at this meeting was »On the Land-Molluscan Genus *Durgella*, with notes on its Anatomy and description of a new Species« by Lieut.-Col. H. H. Godwin-Austen. *Durgella* was founded by Mr. W. T. Blanford in 1863, and his paper was the first attempt to classify the Indian land shells by the form of the animal and structure of the foot, besides being valuable as regards their distribution. — The genus contained three species, *D. levicula* Bens., *D. mucosa* Blandf., and *D. seposita* Bens. The type, *D. levicula*, is now in the Cambridge Museum. From examination of living specimens, and as compared with the type, Col. Godwin-Austen is satisfied of the distinctness of the genus, it having but a distant relationship with *Girasia*, *Macrochlamys* etc. He doubts, however, if the species *mucosa* ought to be placed in the genus; and states that if the species *seposita* is the same as his *bilineata* from the Duffa Hills, as Mr. G. Nevill asserts, it must also be removed, for the latter is a true *Macrochlamys*. *Durgella* has a very remarkable odontophore, quite unlike any other Indian species of the Zonitidae. The author treats further of its anatomy, and characterizes the genus afresh, describing *D. Blanfordi*, from Assam, as a new species.

January 20th 1881. — A Squirrel's nest from a holly bush was exhibited by Mr. Charles Berjeau, and in his remarks thereon he mentioned he could find no specimen of this rodent's aboreal domicile either in the British Museum or other London collections.

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