

(loc. cit. Taf. I, Fig. 1) und glaube an demselben die Andeutung der oben beschriebenen Foramina in der Gestalt zweier schartenartigen Ausbuchtungen nahe dem Krallenansatze herauszufinden. Nichtsdestoweniger findet sich in der sonst so vortrefflichen Monographie noch keine Notiz von diesem Sinnesorgane vor.

III. Mittheilungen aus Instituten, Gesellschaften etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

1st March, 1881. — The Secretary exhibited the cast integument of a large Spider (*Mygale bistrata*?) which had been shed in the Society's Gardens. — Mr. G. E. Dobson, C.M.Z.S., read a paper on the anatomy of the Family *Erinaceidae*, commencing with that of the curious and rare form *Gymnura Rafflesii*, with which the species of *Erinaceus* were compared. *Gymnura* was shown to be a peculiarly central form, the survivor probably of a once widely spread group. Altogether, the anatomy of thirteen species of *Erinaceidae* was treated of in this paper. — A communication was read from Mr. F. Moore, F.Z.S., containing the descriptions of some new genera and species of Asiatic Nocturnal Lepidoptera. The characters of 150 new species were given representing 82 genera, of which 29 were new to science. — A communication was read from Mr. R. Collett, C.M.Z.S., containing an account of the breeding habits of the Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), as observed on the Fro Islands, off Trondhjem's Fiord, in Norway. — Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, F.Z.S., read a note on the Fantail Flycatcher of Western Australia (*Rhipidura Preissi*), of which he had lately had for the first time an opportunity of examining a specimen. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

Febr. 3, 1881. — Examples of Prof. C. Semper's method of preserving the soft tissues of animals as teaching specimens were exhibited on behalf of Herr L. Würth of Würzburg. — A paper was read by Mr. A. D. Michael, Observations on the Life History of Gamasinae. In this the author endeavours to decide some of the disputed and knotty points in reference to these humble parasites; Mr. Mégnin of Versailles and Dr. Kramer of Schleusingen, both being good authorities on the subject, being at variance thereon. Mr. Michael, believing that detached observations on captured specimens may have produced unreliable results, has himself bred Gamasids, closely followed their changes and growth, and watched their manners, and thus has arrived at what he on good grounds assumes to be important results respecting their life-history. He states that the remarkable power of starting each mandible separately with speed and accuracy of aim far in advance of the body, the powerful retractile muscles attached to these mandibles, the organisation of the remainder of the mouth, the extreme swiftness of the creatures, the use of the front legs as tactile organs only, and not for the purpose of locomotion, and the ample supply of tactile hairs in front only, seem to fit the animals for a predatory life, and point to habits similar to those of *Cheyletus* and *Trombidium*, rather than to those of the true vegetable-

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