Long. total. 43½, membri anterior. 29½, poster. 87½, manus 13½, femoris 25½, tibiae 27½, pedis 37½ mm.

Hab. in insula Nossi-Bé satis frequens (5 spec.).

Francofurti ad Moenum, sexto Calendas Majas 1881.

III. Mittheilungen aus Instituten, Gesellschaften etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

7th June, 1881. — The Secretary called the attention of the meeting to the opening of the Insectarium in the Society's Gardens, which had taken place on the 25th April, and read a report on the insects that had been reared and exhibited there, drawn up by Mr. W. Watkins, the Superintending Entomologist. — Mr. F. M. Balfour, F.Z.S., read a paper on the development of the skeleton of the paired fins of Elasmobranchs, considered in relation to its bearings on the nature of the limbs of the Vertebrata. The object of the investigations recorded in this paper was explained by the author to be twofold — viz., on the one hand to test how far the study of the development of the skeleton of the fins supported the view which had previously been arrived at by the author to the effect that the paired fins were the specialised and highly developed remnants of a once continuous lateral fin on each side; and on the other to decide between the views of Gegenbaur and Huxley and Thacker and Mivart as to the primitive type of fin-skeleton. The author pointed out that the results of his researches were entirely favourable to the view that the paired fins were structures of the same nature as the unpaired; and that they gave a general support to the views of Thacker and Mivart. They clearly showed that the pelvic fins retain more primitive character than the pectoral. Conclusions were drawn somewhat adverse to the views recently put forward on the structure of the fin by Gegenbaur and Huxley, both of whom considered the primitive type of fin to be most nearly retained in *Ceratodus*, and to consist of a central multisegmented axis with numerous rays on its two sides. It appeared in fact, that the development of the skeleton demonstrates that a biserial type of fin like that of *Ceratodus* could not have been primitive, but that it must have been secondarily derived from a uniserial type, by the primitive bar along the base of the fin (the *basipterygium*) being rotated outwards, and a second set of rays being developed on its posterior border. — Mr. W. T. Blanford, F.Z.S., read some notes on a collection of Persian Reptiles recently added to the British Museum, amongst which was an example of a new species of Lizard, proposed to be called *Agama persica*. — A communication was read from the Rev. O. P. Cambridge, C.M.Z.S., on a new Spider of the family *Theraphosidae*. The chief interest attaching to this Spider was the fact that it had lived in the Gardens of the Society from March to October, 1880. Mr. Cambridge proposed to name the species *Homoeomma Stradlingii*, after Dr. Stradling, who had brought the specimen in question home from Bahia. — Mr. G. E. Dobson, C.M.Z.S., read a paper on the pharynx, larynx, and hyoid bones in the *Epomophori*, indicating some very remarkable peculiarities of structure, in which these Bats appear to differ not only from all other Chi-

roptera, but from all other mammals. Pharyngeal air-sacs were also described in the males of *Epomophori monstrosus, Franqueti,* and *comptus.* — Mr. J. Gwyn Jeffreys, F.R.S., read the third of the series of his memoirs on the Mollusca procured during the »Lightning« and »Porcupine« expeditions 1868—70. The present paper contained an account of the families from *Kelliidae* to *Tellinidae.* Eleven new or hitherto unfigured species were described. The geographical, hydrographical, and geological distribution of the species enumerated were fully given. — Mr. F. C. Selous read a paper on the South African Rhinoceroses, based upon specimens collected and observations made during nine year's hunting in Southern and South-central Africa. Mr. Selous had come to the conclusion that in these countries only two well-marked species of *Rhinoceros* existed — namely the square-mouthed *Rhinoceros simus,* and the prehensile-lipped *R. bicornis.* — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

May 5th, 1881. — Mr. C. Stewart exhibited and described an ovum of *Helix haemastoma,* remarkable for its great size as compared with that of the animal. The generative organs are also peculiar. — Mr. George Busk gave an abstract of a »Descriptive Catalogue of *Cellepora* collected on the ‚Challenger' Expedition«, in which some thirty-one species of this Polyzoan genus are referred to. Of these the North-Atlantic yields three from depths ranging from 51 to 450 fathoms. The South Atlantic furnishes five species from 500 to 600 fathoms. Of seven species from the immediate neighbourhood of Kerguelen Land (or so-called South Indian Region) three were got from depths ranging from 20 to 150 fathoms. From the Australian Region eleven species, with one exception (*C. solida*), obtained from two to four fathoms. Only two species obtain from the North Pacific Region, respectively 18 to 310 fathoms. From the South Pacific 304 species have been derived, 45 to 150 fathoms being the extremes of depths, save in the case of *C. magellensis* from 1325 fathoms. Mr. Busk arranges the ‚Challenger' *Celleporae* into five sections distinguished by the general habit of the Zoarium, viz.: 1. Encrusting or foliaceous expanded; 2. Hollow or more or less cylindrical; 3. Branched, solid; 4. Of massive irregular growth; 5. Fusiform. He describes among others some thirty new species, and observes that as a whole the genus *Cellepora* of this Expedition appear to belong to comparatively shallow water.

Anniversary Meeting, May, 24. — Prof. Allman delivered his anniversary address, his subject being »Recent Advances in our knowledge of the Development of the Ctenophora«.

3. Gesuch

lebender Scorpione und in Spiritus gut conservirter Arachniden.

Der Unterzeichnete wird für Zusendung lebender Scorpione durch die Post zum Kauf oder Tausch sehr dankbar sein und wendet sich deshalb an die Gefälligkeit seiner Collegen. Eben so wird er sehr gern