

morphosis to pupa 14th July, and the imago appeared on the 23d July. — A Description of some New Birds from the Solomon Islands and New Britain, by Edward P. Ramsay of Sydney, was then read by the Secretary. The new species are: *Ceyx sacerdotis*, *Pomarea* (*Monarcha*) *ugiensis*, *Calornis feadensis*, *Carpophaga Finschii*, *Baza Gurneyi*, and *Astur pulchellus*.

November 17, 1881. — Dr. Francis Day showed examples of the stomachs of the pilchard with special reference to their digestion. These fishes come in shore on the Cornish coast towards night to feed, when they are netted. Examination shortly after reveals the *Zoëa* stage of crustaceans to be their chief food. While this lies loosely in portions of the stomach, at the pyloric division it appears to be enclosed within a sac, or sausage-shaped envelope. Microscopic examination proves the sac to be a cast-off lining of the stomach walls. What purpose it serves in the economy of digestion is uncertain, though it bears resemblance to the sac vomited by hornbills during incubation. — Sir J. Lubbock read his ninth communication »On Ants, Bees, and Wasps.« He commenced by detailing some experiments made with a view of ascertaining not only whether bees could distinguish one colour from another, but also whether they preferred certain colours. Under precisely similar conditions he placed drops of honey on papers of different colours, having accustomed marked bees to come to the spot for food. He then placed these pieces of paper on a lawn. When the bee returned and had sipped the honey for about a quarter of a minute he removed it. She then flew to a second colour; this he took away. Then she went to a third, and soon. In this manner he induced her to visit all the drops successively; and, by recording a large number of observations, he ascertained for which colour the bees showed a preference. The result was that the bee seemed to like blue much better than the other colours. It may be asked why it is that, if blue is the favourite colour of bees, and if bees have so much to do with the origin of flowers, there should be so few blue ones. He suggests the explanation to be that all flowers were originally green, and then passed through white or yellow, and generally red, before becoming blue. — Dr. Cobbold described a new Entozoon from the Ostrich, which he named *Strongylus Douglasii*. By information received from Mr. Arthur Douglas, of Heatherton Towers, near Grahamstown, it was shown that this parasite proves very destructive to Ostrich chicks, its action being similar to that of *Strongylus pergracilis* which occasions grouse disease. The Ostrich worm bears remarkably few eggs, in this way resembling certain free nematodes. For its destruction Dr. Cobbold recommended the Cape farmers to try the new worm remedy called milk of papaw (*Carica papaya*). — J. Murie.

### 3. Società Entomologica Italiana in Firenze.

Adun. del di 26 Ottobre. 1881. — Cavanna e Piccioli, Mostro-uità (melomelia) in una femmina ad elite liscie del *Dytiscus marginalis*. — Camerano, Ancora del *Sinoxylon muricatum* in Piemonte. — Simonetta, I Pediculini del Museo di Pavia. — Curò, Aggiunte al Catalogo dei Lepidotteri d'Italia. — G. Cavanna, Secret.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1882

Band/Volume: [5](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Cavanna G.

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