

schläuche in ursächlicher Beziehung stehen. Die feinen Anfänge der letzteren ragen als dünne Kolben oder zarte Geflechte, zuweilen in dickeren Schlingen bis an die Basis der Darmepithelzellen, also bis nahe an den Darminhalt heran.

In den Maschen des Netzes der Pigmentschläuche ist ein äußerst zartes, farbloses Haargefäßnetz eingebettet, dessen Darstellung durch farbige Injection von den Blutgefäßen aus nur auf kurze Strecken gelingt und dessen directer Zusammenhang mit dem Pigmentnetze und den Haargefäßnetzen der Blutbahn noch nicht sicher nachzuweisen war. Eben so unsicher sind die Beziehungen der besprochenen Pigmentnetze zum Gasaustausch der Körpergewebe.

Der großen Verbreitung der grünen Pigmentschlauchnetze und der mit denselben zusammenhängenden schwarzen knäueiförmigen Reservoirs kann nur die Vertheilung des Fettkörpers im Insectenleibe an die Seite gesetzt werden. Sowohl das Pigment, als auch das Fett — obgleich von verschiedener chemischer Zusammensetzung — stellen Reservestoffe dar.

Der feinere Bau der Wandung der Pigmentnetze ist nur nach Auswaschung der grünen Flüssigkeit und Behandlung mit Höllesteinauflösung erkennbar. In jugendlichen Exemplaren erscheint zu äußerst eine zarte, structurlose, glashelle Grenzmembran, dann eine mittlere Schicht mit contractilen Längs- und Querfasern und eine innerste, aus einfacher Schicht platter Zellen bestehende Auskleidung. Die Kerne dieser Zellen erscheinen rundlich mit deutlichem Nebenkern. In den Schläuchen aus älteren Exemplaren ist diese innerste Schicht nicht mehr nachweisbar. In der Knäuelwandung scheint sie überhaupt nicht vorhanden zu sein. Näheres darüber, so wie über die Bedeutung der Netze in einer späteren ausführlichen Abhandlung<sup>2</sup>.

### III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

#### 1. Zoological Society of London.

1th May, 1883. — The Secretary read an extract from a letter addressed to him by Mr. W. L. Crowther, C.M.Z.S., respecting the possibility of obtaining living specimens of the Thylacine of Tasmania. — The Secretary exhibited, on behalf of Mr. H. Whitely, the skin of a Bird of Paradise (*Diphyllodes Guelielmi*) from the island of Waigiou, which was believed to be the second example of this rare species yet obtained. — The Secretary exhibited a set of Radde's international colourscales, and ex-

<sup>2</sup> Die im Vorstehenden enthaltenen Thatsachen wurden durch Demonstration an microscopischen Präparaten und von Zeichnungen erläutert.

plained the way in which it was intended to be used. — A communication was read from Mr. F. Moore, F.Z.S., containing the second part of a monograph of the sections *Limnaina* and *Euploeina*, two groups of Diurnal Lepidoptera belonging to the subfamily *Euploeinae*. The present paper contained the descriptions of many new genera and species belonging to the group *Euploeina*. — Mr. Alfred Tylor, F.Z.S., read a paper on the coloration of animals, showing that the character of the ornament or decoration differs in the two great divisions of the animal kingdom — the Invertebrata and Vertebrata. Mr. Tylor pointed out that the law of emphasis, well known in architecture, was, in his opinion, applicable to natural history, and showed that the prominent characters of the animal are picked out in colour in precisely the same manner whenever colour is present. He divided his subject into several sections, and exhibited illustrations of the more important families in coloured diagrams. — A communication was read from Dr. O. Boettger, of Frankfort-on-the-Main, containing the description of new species of landshells of the genus *Clausilia* from the Levant, collected by Vice-Admiral Spratt, F.R.S. — Mr. W. F. Kirby gave an account of a small collection of Hymenopterous and Dipterous insects obtained in the Timor-Laut group of islands by Mr. H. O. Forbes. — P. L. Selater, Secretary.

## 2. Linnean Society of London.

3th May, 1883. — Wr. William Galloway exhibited an extensive series of the Osseous Remains of the Great Auk, Otter and other animals along with bone implements being part of the material dug out of the mound of Caisteal naw-Gillean, on Oronsay by himself and Mr. S. Greive in 1881—82. — A second Contribution on the Asteroidea of the Challenger Expedition, by W. Percy Sladen, was read. In this the author draws attention to the »Cribriform Organs«, peculiar structures associated with special function found in *Porcellanaster*, but as yet unknown in other starfishes. The organs in question are situated on the marginal plates in the interbrachial angles and they may vary from one to seven in number. They consist of greatly compressed spinelets or lamellae ranged in vertical parallel lines, and invested with a membrane, which appears to have been furnished with vibratile cilia. Functionally they may act as percolators and be homologous with the minute ciliary spines bordering the vertical furrows of the marginal plates of *Astropecten* and other forms. In *Porcellanaster* they are strictly lamellae whilst they are papilliform in the allied genera of *Hydraster*, *Styrocaster*, and *Thoracaster*. Mr. Sladen further describes in detail the last mentioned three new genera of five in all, and of twenty seven species some twenty one are entirely new to science. — There followed a paper by Mr. George Brook, »A revision of the genus *Entombrya* Rond. (= *Degeeria* Nicolet)«. In this communication a historical resumé is given of what divisions etc., of the group of Poduræ more immediately under consideration have been made by previous observers. From researches into the literature and his own observations the author arrives at the conclusion that in the genus *Entombrya* we have a common widely distributed form which at different ages and under different conditions present gradations of colour from the light to the dark shade, and these have been named accordingly as separate sorts by various authors. Something of a similar kind has already

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