

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

#### 1. Linnean Society of London.

21st June, 1883. — A paper »On the Structure of the Hard Parts of the Fungidae«, part 2, Lophoserinae, was read by Prof. Duncan. — A communication was read from Mr. H. G. Doran »On the Malleus of *Rhytina Stelleri*«, the same being based on a specimen obtained in the voyage of the »Vega« and exhibited in the Swedish Department of the International Fisheries Exhibition under the charge of Prof. Smitt of Stockholm. The author concludes that this auditory ossicle in the extinct Northern Sea-cow (*Rhytina*) is larger than in the Manatee (*Manatus*) and therefore it is the largest and bulkiest malleus to be found in the whole section of the animal Kingdom where such a bone exists. In the character of its body it resembles that of the Manatee rather than that of the Dugong (*Halicore*), while in the manubrium it differs in *Rhytina* from the other Sirenia and is far more generalized. — »On the Testis of *Limulus*« formed a communication from Mr. W. B. S. Benham. He describes the structures in question noting the apparent isolation of many of the spermatid sacs and the probability that they are not diverticula of the spermatid duct, but secondarily acquire connection therewith, the two structures being independently developed. He remarks that in no Crustacean do the ducts of the generative glands form a network, whereas in the King Crab as in the Scorpion and other Arachnids they do. — There followed a paper »On the Mollusca of H.M.S. »Challenger« (part XX) by the Rev. R. Boog Watson. This contains a continued descriptive account of the Family *Bullidae*, dealing with the genera *Atys* and *Scaphander*, along with the group *Aphysiidae*, genus *Dolabrifera*. — J. Murie.

#### 2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

April 25th, 1883. — The following [zoological] papers were read: — 1. Notes on a collection of Fishes from the Burdekin and Mary Rivers, Queensland, by William Macleay, F.L.S., etc. Fifty-two species of fishes are here recorded as having been taken by Mr. Morton, of the Australian Museum, within the mouths of the above-named rivers. Of these, Mr. Macleay classes 18 as sea fishes, 11 as salt water fishes occasionally entering rivers, 7 as fresh water fishes occasionally visiting the sea, and 15 entirely fresh water fishes. The new species described are *Serranus estuarius*, *Therapon fuliginosus* and *parviceps*, *Diagramma labiosum*, *Corvina argentea*, *Caranx compressus*, *Cybius semifasciatus*, *Platycephalus Mortoni*, *Eleotris planiceps*, *Atherinichthys maculatus*, *Mugil Ramsayi*, *Chatoëssus elongatus*, *Anguilla marginipinnis*, and *Taeniura Mortoni*. — 2. By J. J. Fletcher, M.A., B.Sc., »Notes on a viviparous Lizard«. The author's attention had been drawn to the subject during last January, when he obtained at Burrawang several examples of female lizards in an advanced stage of pregnancy. The embryos were from 2 to 3 inches long, enveloped in a thin and transparent chorion quite devoid of the calcareous matter with which it is more or less impreg-

nated in the oviparous species. — Professor Stephens exhibited a photograph and a sketch forwarded by Mr. C. Jenkins, representing a fossil from the Devonian formation of the Murrumbidgee Valley, near Yass. This very remarkable specimen is the head of some Ganoid fish, evidently belonging to the Devonian period, and characterised by strong bony scales, deeply sculptured, and united by close textures. Two of these are perforated by large sub-circular orbits for the eyes. Other portions of the same specimen had been forwarded, to the Australian Museum while Mr. Jenkins was engaged in the exploration of the Covan Caves; and some other fragments have since, it is believed, been recovered. Mr. Jenkins is inclined to refer it to *Asterolepis* (which is closely connected with *Pterichthys*), but chiefly on account of the character of sculpture of the scales. On the same ground, he doubts its relationship to *Cacosteus* or *Cephalaspis*. Prof. Stephens added, that without the actual specimen before them with all its collected fragments, it would be premature to determine even the genus of this ancient fish, but pointed out that it appeared to have some points of resemblance to *Macropetalichthys* of the North American Devonians. — Mr. Macleay exhibited specimens of a small Moth (*Tineidae*), the larva of which was at present creating great havoc in the vegetable gardens in and about Sydney, completely eating up the leaves of the cabbages and cauliflowers, and rendering the entire crop utterly useless. The Caterpillar, a number of which were exhibited, is an active, slightly hairy, green worm, the pupa is also green and is fastened on the under side of the leaf on which it has fed, by a cocoon, of beautiful open lace work. The rapidity with which this insect seems to reproduce itself is most astounding, and accounts for the short work it makes of a bed of cabbages. The insect was, it is said, first noticed last year, and then not in destructive numbers, so that it will probably be found to be an importation. — Mr. Macleay also exhibited the foetus of *Halmaturus ruficollis*, taken from the pouch of the mother, with the umbilical cord attached, illustrating the extremely early age at which the young leave the uterus. — Mr. H. A. Gilliat exhibited a collection of cretaceous fossils from the Mount Brown diggings. With reference to this exhibit the Vice-President made a few remarks on its value and interest. He said that the cretaceous formation was known to extend throughout the whole eastern interior of the Continent, and probably through the centre, but not much was known of the fossils. The abundance of *Avicula alata*, Eth., in this collection showed such a wide-spread prevalence of this fossil, that he considered it the most characteristic species of the formation. The rock was curiously like the Greensand of Europe. The collection contained valuable additions to our knowledge of the fauna. — Mr. J. J. Fletcher exhibited (1.) A specimen of a Giant Earthworm, 25 in. long, from Burrawang, N.S.W. It probably belongs to Prof. McCoy's genus *Megascolides*, and its existence in this colony is now recorded for the first time. (2.) The plates *Dendrolagus inustus* and *D. ursinus* from Profs. Schlegel and Müller's work on the Mammals of the Indian Archipelago, for comparison with the specimen of a new species of *Dendrolagus* exhibited by the Hon. Wm. Macleay at the last meeting. (3.) Specimens of the Lizard referred to in his paper. — Professor Stevens exhibited a Chrysalis of a *Dana's*, secured by a silk line to a leaf of an exotic Pelargonium.

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