

zugehen, daß vom Stolo prolifer der Amme Knospen nicht aber Urknospen wie beim *Doliolum* abgehen und daß der Bau dieser Knospen ein ganz anderer als der der *Doliolum*-Knospen ist. Das führt zu dem Schlusse, daß auch der Stolo prolifer der *Anchinia*-Amme anders als der Stolo prolifer der *Doliolum*-Amme gebaut ist.

Moskau, 11. September (a. S.) 1883.

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

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

Aug. 29th, 1883. — 1) On a fossil Calvaria. By Charles De Vis, B.A. The writer gave a full and minute description of this fossil, which consists of the parietal and the upper part of the occipital bones. It is remarkable for the great prominence of the occipital spine, and thickness of the parietals, which, though only four inches in length by three in width, have an average thickness of nearly three-quarters of an inch; the bevel of the coronal suture being thirteen lines in depth. He was inclined to refer this singular form to some extinct Sirenian, living in fresh waters, and of a much lower degree of development than those now existing. — 2) Remarks upon a skull of an Australian aboriginal from the Lachlan district. By Baron N. de Miklucho Maclay. The skull which was found by Mr. C. Horsley of Gunningbland Station, in the Lachlan district, is remarkable for the formation of the occipital bone. The superior curved line with the external occipital protuberance, forms not a line but a very prominent occipital crest, and the hindmost part of the skull is not the convex part of the superior portion of the occipital bone, but this occipital crest. The thickness of the bone between the external and internal occipital protuberances is 21 mm. The skull is also remarkable as being very dolichocephalic, the index of the breadth being 66.8. — 3) Professor Stephens exhibited a living example and photographs of the remarkable New Zealand *Hatteria* (*Sphenodon*, or *Rhynchosaurus*) *punctata*, brought to Sydney by W. Knight, Esq., from Karewa Island, Bay of Islands, 6 miles from Tauranga. Here this lizard lives in association with the Mutton birds, whatever these may be, in great numbers. Whether this association is based upon pure friendship maybe doubtful. The affinities of this animal are, according to Huxley, with the Triassic *Hyperodapedon*, which it resembles in many points, as for example the singular action of the lower jaw with its single row of teeth, cutting between two rows in the upper, one row being in the maxillary, the other in the palatine bones, or rather, both being carried on a plate in which both bones are fused. The amphiocoelian character of the centra is also an important point as connecting this with lower or Archiac forms. Owen describes the osteology of this creature, under the name *Rhynchosaurus*, in Vol. 1, Anat. Vert., p. 57, 154 etc., reckoning it as a New Zealand Gecko. Günther has also described it under the name of *Hatteria*, Phil. Trans., 1869. Mention is made of it in the earliest notices of New Zealand; and it appears to have been rather an object of dislike or superstitious fear among the Maories. The pigs however, as aliens, feel neither dislike nor

fear, and are said to be rapidly exterminating this interesting relic, so that on the mainland it is becoming very scarce. — Professor Stephens also exhibited two specimens of *Pennatulidae* from Burrard's Inlet, Victoria, British Columbia. These were brought to Sydney by Captain Barnes, of the »Pacific Slope«, who had obtained them from the natives. They are said to bear their polypiferous heads just at the surface of the water. One of the specimens was  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length, the other 5 feet in length, but as they consisted of little more than the slender and cylindrical rachis, curiously like a dry osier twig peeled ready for the basket-maker, it is not possible to identify them with any described form. This exhibit was due to the kindness of A. A. Smith, Esq. — Mr. H. Rawes Whittell exhibited some specimens of *Tacsonia Exonensis*, showing the manner in which the honey is extracted by the Spine-billed Honey-eater — *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* Lath. He stated that W. S. Campbell, Esq., of Gladesville, to whose kindness he was indebted for this exhibit, informed him that he had often seen this bird engaged in the operation of extracting the honey. He had also frequently seen it devouring large numbers of the common white ant. The flower is a hybrid raised in England, and first imported to this colony by Mr. Campbell. — The President [C. S. Wilkinson, Government Geologist] exhibited some specimens of fossil insects found in the tin-bearing tertiary deep leads near Vegetable Creek, New England. This is the second discovery of fossil insects in Australia, and the specimens show the impressions of larvae and pupae of *Ephemer* or »*May fly*«. — A fossil coral (*Cyathophyllum* sp.), from the carboniferous rocks, near Jervis Bay, was exhibited on behalf of the Hon. Jas. Norton.

## 2. Notiz.

Herr Dr. A. Ziegler in Freiburg i. B. hat mit der meisterhaften Geschicklichkeit, welche alle von ihm gefertigten Wachsmodele auszeichnet, neuerdings eine vortrefflich gelungene Serie von Modellen hergestellt, welche die wichtigsten Stadien in der Entwicklung der *Asterina gibbosa* (im Anschluß an meine Abhandlung in der Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool. 36. Bd.) zum Gegenstande haben. Die Serie umfaßt im Ganzen 11 Modelle, welche mit Ausnahme eines einzigen, paarweise in der Art zusammengehören, daß das eine Modell die äußere Gestalt, das andere die wichtigsten anatomischen Verhältnisse des betreffenden Stadiums wiedergibt. Das Verständnis derselben wird durch die verschiedenen Farbentöne der einzelnen Organe wesentlich gefördert. Obschon die Serie bereits auf der letzten Naturforscher-Versammlung in Freiburg i. B. von Herrn Dr. Ernst Ziegler demonstriert worden ist, möchte ich auch noch an dieser Stelle auf dieses ausgezeichnete Unterrichtsmittel aufmerksam machen.

Gießen, 22. October 1883.

Prof. H. Ludwig.

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1883

Band/Volume: [6](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Anonymous

Artikel/Article: [1. Linnean Society of New South Wales 591-592](#)