

met with in British waters. — A communication was read from Dr. M. Watson, F.Z.S., containing additional observations on the structure of the female organs of the Indian Elephant (*Elaphus indicus*). — A communication was read from Mr. F. Moore, F.Z.S., containing the descriptions of some new Asiatic Diurnal Lepidoptera. — A communication was read from Mr. R. Trimen, F.R.S., in which he gave a description of a remarkable semi-melanoid variety of the Leopard (*Felis pardus*) in the Albany Museum, Grahamstown, which had been obtained in the east of the Cape Colony. — A communication was read from the Count H. von Berlepsch and Mr. L. Taczanowski, in which an account was given of an extensive collection of birds made by MM. Stolzmann and Siemiradzki in Western Ecuador. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

## 2. Linnean Society of London.

15th November 1883. — Professor P. Martin Duncan showed a specimen of Coral (*Desmophyllum crista-galli*) which had grown upon an electric telegraph cable off the shores of Spain, it possessed radicles, apparently due to the presence of a worm close beneath the base of the Coral. — Mr. E. P. Ramsay exhibited a series of rare New Guinea Birds, prominent among which were; — *Chamosyna Margaretheae*, *Geoffroyius heteroclitus*, *Cinnyris melanocephalus*, *Myragra ferrocyanæ*, *Pallopus Richardsii*, *R. Lewisii* etc. — Dr. J. Murie showed and made remarks on specimens of *Ascaris bicolor* Baird, from the living Walrus at the Westminster Aquarium. — A paper was read by Mr. J. J. Briant, in which he describes the minute structure of the segments joints and certain rod and cone like organs, previously referred to by Dr. Braxton Hicks, of highly sensitive functions. — The next communication was — »On the Japanese Languriidae, their habits and external sexual characteristics« by George Lewis. He remarks that one representative of the family has been found in Siberia, lat. 46° (*L. Menetriesi*); there are none in Europe, and one is known from Egypt. Others inhabit the Malay Archipelago, Ceylon, and the American Continent. The author infers from the geographical distribution of these beetles that they have emanated from a tropical area. Some in the imago state cling to the stems of brushwood; others sit on the leaves of moist shade-loving plants in the forests while still others frequent debris on hill sides. Their colours are all dull, their bodies elongate and structurally not adapted for boring. The sexes show peculiar differences in size, monstrous enlargement and obliquity of the head, volume of tibia, etc. In the Munich catalogue, 1876, there are only 114 species of Languriidae given and Harold in the paper cited describes in 1879 about 40 more, yet the total, say 160 can be but a small portion of those existing in nature, or even actually now extant in our collections. It cannot be said that the fashioning of the Languriidae is the result of influences affecting the insect in some early stage (as larva or pupa) before the imago appears, because we see throughout the whole of the insect world, that in each stage of an insect forms are assumed which are adapted solely to such stage and are entirely free and uncontrolled by any external structure of the individual during any antecedent stage of its existence. Each, as a larva, or imago, is formed for its environment to crawl or fly and a process, which is not immediately obvious, checks in all its stages variation

or an abrupt departure from the type of its predecessor. The following new species are described by the author: — *Doubledaya lucculenta*, *Languria ingens*, *L. nana*, *L. columella*, and *L. fuscosa*. — Prof. P. Martin Duncan read a paper »on the replacement of a true wall or theca by epitheca in some Serial Coralla; and on the importance of the structure in the growth of incrusting Corals.« After alluding to the discussions which have taken place regarding the value of epitheca in classification the author states that one form of this structure is simply protective and that another form is of high physiological value, for it replaces entirely the usual theca or wall. The anatomy of the hard structures of a *Coeloria* illustrates the second proposition, for the broad base is covered by an epitheca within which is no wall or »plateau« commun; the septa, remarkable nodular walls (described in detail) and the columellae arise from the epitheca directly and it limits the interseptal loculi inferiorly. In a *Leptoria* the same replacement of a wall by epitheca is seen. In incrusting *Porites* and such *Astraeidae* as *Leptastraea* the majority of the corallites of the colony arise from this basal epithecate structure and grow upwards budding subsequently from their sides. — J. Murie.

### 3. Bitte.

Der Unterzeichnete erlaubt sich an die Herren Vorstände zoologischer Museen die ergebenste Bitte zu richten, ihm behufs befriedigenden Abschlusses seiner Arbeit über die leiodactylen Saurier (*Lacerta*, *Tachydromus*, *Notopholis*, *Tropidosaura*, *Zerzumia*) Material leih- oder tauschweise zu überlassen. Besonders wären ihm die schwer zu bestimmenden Arten aus Vorder-Asien, von Süd- und Ost-Africa, wie z. B. *Lac. samharica*, *Sturti*, *spinalis*, *carinata*, *echinata*, *tessellata*, *Delalandei*, *princeps*, *Tropidosaura capensis* und *montana*, erwünscht.

Dr. J. v. Bedriaga,

Nizza, Bd. de l'Impératrice, 55.

## IV. Personal-Notizen.

München. Der in No. 153 als Praeparator an der zool.-zootom. Sammlung angeführte Dr. A. Kuhn ist, wie mir nachträglich berichtend mitgeteilt wird, im April 1882 gestorben. — Für die vergl.-anatom. Sammlung ist nachzutragen: Inspector Conrad Will.

Würzburg. Herr Prof. Semper theilt mir mit, daß, wenn auch das seiner Leitung unterstehende Institut aus geschichtlich erwachsenen Gründen als »zoologisch-zootomisches« bezeichnet wurde, doch die von ihm officiell vertretenen Fächer »Zoologie und vergleichende Anatomie (nicht Zootomie)« sind. Seinem Wunsche entsprechend berichtige ich hiermit die betreffende Überschrift.

C.

### Necrolog.

Am 9. Juli 1883 starb in Florenz Prof. Filippo Pacini (geb. im Mai 1812 in Pistoja), der Entdecker der nach ihm benannten Körpchen.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1883

Band/Volume: [6](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Murie J.

Artikel/Article: [2. Linnean Society of London 663-664](#)