

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

#### 1. Zoological Society of London.

4th March, 1884. — Mr. Howard Saunders, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on specimens of two Gulls (*Xema Sabini* and *Larus philadelphia*) in the breeding-plumage, both killed in Scotland. Mr. Saunders also made some observations upon the specimen of *Larus atricilla* in the British Museum, said to be the one killed by Montagu at Winchelsea; and came to the conclusion that the bird in question was not Montagu's specimen. Mr. Saunders likewise exhibited a specimen of *Puffinus griseus* killed off the Yorkshire coast. — A letter was read from Dr. Ch. W. Lütken, Foreign Member, calling attention to a specimen of an Echidna in the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen, which seemed to be different from the ordinary *Tachyglossus aculeatus*, and which Dr. Lütken was of opinion might possibly be referable to the lately described *T. Lawesi* of New Guinea. — Mr. J. E. Harting, F.Z.S., exhibited and made observations on some Antlers of Roe Deer from Dorsetshire and Scotland. — Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant read a paper on the Fishes of the genera *Sicydium* and *Lentipes* (belonging to the family Gobiidae), in which an attempt was made to arrange the species of *Sicydium* into smaller groups, the members of which were found to be allied together by convenient and distinctive characters. Five new species of *Sicydium* were described. — A communication was read from Mr. F. Moore, F.Z.S., on some new Asiatic Diurnal Lepidoptera, chiefly from specimens in the Calcutta Museum. — A communication was read from the Count T. Salvadori, C.M.Z.S., containing some critical remarks on an African Duck, *Anas capensis* Gmelin. — P. L. Slater, Secretary.

#### 2. Linnean Society of London.

20th March, 1884. — In illustration of his paper — »A Contribution to the knowledge of the genus *Anaphe* Walker«, — Lord Walsingham exhibited a large and remarkable nest of a congregating moth, a species of the genus, from Natal. It contained a packed mass of Cocoons, specimens of the larvae and of the mature insect; there likewise was shown a living example of a Dipterous parasite which had emerged from the Moth eggs on hatching. His Lordship further stated that the nest and contents had been forwarded to him by Col. J. H. Bowker of Durban, and that the larvae were found alive on its receipt in England in August last. The nest was placed in the Insectarium in the Zoological Gardens Regents Park and fortunately some of the perfect insects were reared. Many of the larvae remained in the nest but others in companies of 20 to 40 occasionally marched out moving in closely serried rank much after the manner of the larvae of the Procession Moth (*Cnethocampa*). From December to February 250 moths emerged, but from the difficulty of obtaining their natural food all died, though a pair bred and the eggs were hatched. The mature Insect closely resembles and possibly is identical with the type of *Anaphe panda* Boisd., though under the latter name at would seem there are several well marked local races. The genus is found in West-Africa and Natal; but it appears that in the several species

the colour, size, shape and constructive material of the common nest, as well as the silky Cocoons themselves markedly differ. Of *Anaphe* four species have hitherto been described viz. — *A. venata* from Old Calabar, *A. ambigua* from Angola, *A. reticulata* and *A. panda* from Natal. To these Lord Walsingham adds *A. Carteri* from the Gold Coast and *A. infracta* from the Cameroons. — A second zoological paper was read, »Closure of the Cyclostomatous Bryozoa«, by Arthur W. Waters. While admitting that the group possesses few characters available for purposes of scientific determination he nevertheless points out: — that the ovicells have greater importance than that hitherto accorded them; also that the connecting pores are comparable with the rosette plates of the Chilostomata and that stress must be laid on the size of the zoecial tube, and more particularly to the position and variation of its closure. The author states that in the Cyclostomata which are the simplest of the Bryozoa he has now found a calcareous partition which closes the tubular zoecium and thus protects the colony. Whereas in the Chilostomata (which are more highly differentiated and not being tubular could more easily be closed up) there is the horny operculum which is not a sign of death, but is moveable and protects the living polypide, and through it the colony. — J. Murie.

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

30th January, 1884. — The following papers were read: — 1. Supplement to the Descriptive Catalogue of the Fishes of Australia, by William Macleay, F.L.S., etc. This paper contains references to, or descriptions of, 157 species of Fishes not mentioned as Australian in the previously printed catalogue. The species here described for the first time are from the pens of Dr. Klunzinger, Dr. Günther, Messrs. De Vis, Ramsay, Macleay, and R. M. Johnston. The total number of Australian Fishes now amounts to 1291 species. — 2. »On some new Batrachians from Queensland,« by Charles W. de Vis, M.A. This paper contains descriptions of three new species of Frogs, collected at Mackay, by Mr. H. Ling Roth, and named by the author as follows: — *Limnodynastes lineatus*, approaching *L. Peronii*, but distinguished by shorter hind limbs, and continuity of dorsal stripes; *L. olivaceus*; and *Hyla Rothii*. — 3. (Botanical.) — 4. »Studies on the Elasmobranch Skeleton.« By William A. Haswell, M.A., B.Sc. The species chiefly described are — *Carcharodon Rondeletii*, *Crossorhinus barbatus*, *Heptanchus indicus*, *Pristiophorus cirratus*, *Trygonorkhina fasciata*, *Trygon pastinaca*, and *Hypnos subniger*. The separation of *Crossorhinus* from the Scyllidae is regarded as fully justified. The existence of a mesial ventral cartilage in relation to the pectoral arch of *Heptanchus* is pointed out, and some hitherto unnoticed modifications in the arrangement of the branchial arches in *Trygonorkhina*, *Trygon* and *Hypnos* are described. — Mr. Macleay exhibited for Mr. James Macdonald, who was unable to be present, a specimen of a very curious little fish, which his nephew, Master John D. Wilson, had captured at the North Shore in an empty shell. Mr. Macleay said that it was a species of *Salarias*, and as far as he had been able to examine it, thought it was new. — Mr. Pedley exhibited three specimens of *Centriscus gracilis*, an extremely rare fish in Port Jackson.

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