

- 7) Rectificirter Holzessig. Verdünnt wird derselbe auch als Einschlufßlüssigkeit empfohlen.

cf. »Praeparation und Conservirung microscop. Wasserbewohner« in: Zeitschr. f. Microscopie Jahrg. 1. p. 273. Die daselbst empfohlene Anilinfärbung bewährt sich nicht.

Das Studium des Skelets wird durch eine vorausgegangene Maceration mit kaust. Kali wesentlich erleichtert.

Alle die genannten Methoden haben mit ihren Vortheilen auch Schattenseiten, und man muß eben ausprobiren, welche jeweils die zweckmäßigste ist.

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

6th May, 1884. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of April, and called special attention to two Nepalese Hornbills (*Aceros nipalensis*); a Gigantic Salamander (*Megalobatrachus maximus*); three examples of the Lesser Bird of Paradise; a fine Mediterranean Seal; and other rare acquisitions. — Professor Bell exhibited some specimens of *Estheria melitensis* sent from Malta by Capt. Becher, R.A., and stated that, in answer to his inquiries, that gentleman had confirmed the fact of the males appearing to equal in number the females, as had been stated by previous observers of the members of the genus. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger read a paper on the Reptiles and Batrachians of the Solomon Islands, principally based upon two collections forwarded to the British Museum from that locality by Mr. H. B. Guppy, R. N. — Lieut.-Col. Godwin-Austen, F.R.S., exhibited an old Indian drawing representing a Tiger-hunt; and called attention to the colour of one of the Elephants engaged, which was of a creamy white. — Prof. Flower, F.R.S., described the state of dentition of a young Capybara (*Hydrochoerus capybara*) born in the Society's Gardens, which had died when eight days old. All the teeth of the permanent series were present and in use. — Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell read a paper on *Amphicyclus*, a new genus of Dendrochirotoous Holothurians, and on its bearing on the classification of the suborder. — A communication was read from Mr. Edgar A. Smith, containing a report on the Land and Freshwater Mollusca which had been collected during the voyage of H.M.S. 'Challenger' from December 1872 to May 1876. The collection contained examples of 152 species, some of which were of interest and several new to science. — A communication was read from Count Berlepsch and M. Taczanowski, containing an account of a second collection of Birds made in Western Ecuador by Messrs. Stolzmann and Siemiradzki. There were stated to be examples of 177 species in this collection, which had been made at various localities on the western slope of the Cordilleras above Guayaquil. The following species were described as new: — *Hemicorhina hilaris*, *Chlorospingus ochraceus*, and *Spermophila pauper*. A new genus *Poecilotriccus* was proposed for *Todirostrum ruficeps* of Kaup. — A paper by Messrs. Godman and Salvin was read, which contained a list of the Rhopalocera obtained by Mr.

G. French Angas during a recent visit to the island of Dominica. The number of species in this collection was 27, among them being a species of Nymphalinae apparently new; this the authors proposed to describe as *Cymatogramma dominicana*. — Mr. Herbert Druce read a paper describing the Heterocera collected by Mr. Angas on the same island. — P. L. Selater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

1th May, 1884. — Mr. S. O. Ridley exhibited drawings of the spiculation of Sponges collected and forwarded by Dr. W. C. Ondaatje F.L.S. of Ceylon, sections of which had been shown and remarks made upon them at a previous meeting of the Society. Mr. Ridley also exhibited highly finished coloured sketches of Ceylonese Actiniae drawn from life by Dr. Ondaatje. — Prof. J. Bell afterwards pointed out the chief characteristics of a set of drawings of Comatulids taken from the living specimens as obtained by Dr. Ondaatje from the seas of Ceylon. — Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe read a paper »on a Collection of Birds from the Bahr el Ghazal province and the Nyam-Nyam country in Equatorial Africa«. The author noted the presence of many species in this Herr Bondorff's collection of birds hitherto believed by ornithologists to be limited to West Africa only. This applied to these shot in the Nyam-Nyam country; whereas those species from the Bahr Ghazal and adjoining nilotic district were well known inhabitants of N. East Africa and the Senegambian area. From this Mr. Sharpe deduces that Herr Bondorff had crossed the boundary line of two faunas, and that the animals of the Nyam-Nyam region assimilate to those of the Gaboon and Congo territory rather than to the Lado district or that of Kordofan. This change in the fauna is attributed by Bondorff to the nature of the country from swamp and low lying grassy plains on the east to more hilly and drier forestland on the West. Mr. Sharpe follows Hartlaub's classification as adopted by the latter in his record of Emin Bey's Collections from Equatorial Africa. Mr. Sharpe further gives descriptions of new species with remarks on little known birds over some 27 in all. Of new forms he cites *Crateropus Bondorffi*, *Sigmodus griseimentalis*, *Mesopicus strictothorax*, *Ceuthmochares intermedius*, *Pionias Bondorffi*, *Syrnium fervidum*, *Falco ruficollis* and others as of considerable significance in relation to faunal distribution. — Mr. George Brook read a »Preliminary account of the development of the Weever fish (*Trachinus vipera*)«, in this mentioning that the eggs had been laid in his aquarium at Huddersfield, the fish themselves having been kept alive therein over two years. He drew attention to the fact of there being a vitelline membrane present in the eggs of this fish, as well as in those of the Herring: in contradistinction therefore to what is stated to be the case in osseous fishes generally. He also particularly referred to the persistent nature of the segmentation cavity, which is pushed round the yolk sac, concurrent with the development of the embryo from the blastoderm: and that it does not entirely disappear until the yolk is absorbed. The circulatory system, according to Mr. Brook's researches, is very late in developing, no bloodvessels appearing until several days after hatching. In illustration of his paper the author exhibited under the microscope preparations showing the segmentation stage, the embryonic shield and commencement of keel, the early embryo 3^d day before closure of the blastopore, and 4th day blastopore with

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1884

Band/Volume: [7](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Sclater Philip Lutley

Artikel/Article: [1. Zoological Society of London 302-303](#)