

the Amphibia and differs from the Lacertilia that the left of the primitively two allantoic vessels instead of the right is persistent.

I hope shortly to publish a somewhat fuller notice of this fact in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London.

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

#### 1. Zoological Society of London.

4th November, 1884. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the months of June, July, August, and September 1884, and called attention to certain interesting accessions which had been received during that period. Amongst these were specially noted two Red-cheeked Colies (*Colius erythromelon*), purchased June 12th; two Chaplain Crows (*Corvus capellanus*), from Fao, Persian Gulf, presented June 25th by B. T. Ffinch, Esq.; a second specimen of the Heloderm Lizard (*Heloderma suspectum*), received in exchange from the Central-Park Menagerie, New York, U.S.A., July 3rd; a collection of Snakes from Japan and North America, brought home and presented to the Society by Gerald Waller, Esq., F.Z.S., July 22nd, amongst which were representatives of five species new to the Collection; a young female Cape Sea-Lion (*Otaria pusilla*) from South Africa, presented to the Society by Capt. John Hewat, Superintendent of the Docks, Cape Town, July 25th; and a Fringed Gecko (*Platydictylus homalocephalus*) and six Black-spotted Toads (*Bufo melanostictus*) from Java, presented to the Society by Dr. F. H. Bauer, C.M.Z.S. — Mr. Slater exhibited and made remarks on the skin of a Woolly Cheetah (*Felis lanca*), obtained at Beaufort West, South Africa, sent to him by the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk, C.M.Z.S. — The Secretary exhibited, on behalf of Major W. Brydon, B.S.C., C.M.Z.S., an egg of Blyth's Tragopan; and on behalf of Mr. J. C. Parr, F.Z.S., a specimen of the chick of the Vulturine Guinea-fowl (*Numida vulturina*) hatched in Lancashire. — The Rev. H. H. Slater, F.Z.S., exhibited a specimen of the Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) obtained on the Yorkshire coast. — Mr. H. E. Dresser, F.Z.S., exhibited specimens of the Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) and of the Icterine Warbler (*Hypolais icterina*), killed in Norfolk. — Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, F.Z.S., exhibited a specimen of the Filefish (*Balistes capriscus*), which had been recently caught off Folkestone. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.Z.S., read a paper on the anatomy of a gigantic Earthworm, *Microchaeta Rappii*, and pointed out its systematic position. For this very interesting specimen the author was indebted to the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk, C.M.Z.S., of Cape Town. — Mr. A. G. Butler, F.Z.S., gave an account of a collection of Lepidoptera made by Major J. W. Yerbury at or near Aden. The author looked upon this collection as one of the greatest interest, since it not only contained a fine series of the beautiful species of *Teracolus* recently described by Col. Swinhoe, but also many remarkable intergrades between certain long-established species, tending to prove either that hybrids between allied species are fertile, or that in Aden a condition of things still exists which in Asia proper and in Africa has long passed away. — A communication was read from Lieut.-Col. C. Swin-

hoe, F.Z.S., containing an account of the Lepidoptera collected by him at Kurrachee between the years 1878 and 1880. — A communication was read from Mr. Thomas H. Potts, of Ohinitaki, New Zealand, in which he described a case of hybridism between two species of Flycatchers of the genus *Rhipidura*.

18th November, 1884. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of October 1884, and called attention to a specimen of a Black-necked Coly (*Colius nigricollis*), purchased October 20th, being the first example of this species received alive by the Society. — A communication was read from Mr. J. G. F. Riedel, C.M.Z.S., containing comments on certain passages in Mr. H. O. Forbes's paper on Timor-Laut birds, read before the Society on the 17th June, 1884. — A communication was read from Mr. H. Pryer, C.M.Z.S., giving an account of a recent visit to the Edible-Birds'-nest Caves of British North Borneo. In illustration of this paper, Mr. Pryer sent specimens of the Swift (*Collocalia fuciphaga*), of its nest and eggs, of the Alga on which the bird was supposed to feed, and of the Bat which inhabited the same caves. — Mr. Sclater read an account of some skins of Mammals from Somali-land, which belonged apparently to five species. Amongst these was an apparently new form of Wild Ass, which was proposed to be called *Equus asinus somalicus*. — Mr. F. E. Beddard read a paper on the anatomy of the Umbrette (*Scopus umbretta*). The author observed that as regards its exact systematic position, which had been hitherto a matter of doubt, he was inclined to place this peculiar form as the type of a separate family, between the Herons (Ardeidae) and the Storks (Ciconiidae). — A second paper by Mr. Beddard contained the results of some recent investigations into the structure of *Echidna*, and related to the presence of a persistent umbilical vein in that animal. — Captain Shelley read a paper on some new or little-known species of East-African birds. Three of these were described under the names *Muscicapa Johnstoni*, *Pratincola axillaris*, and *Nectarinia kilimensis*. The collection, which contained altogether 94 specimens, referable to 38 species, was the first fruits of Mr. H. H. Johnston's Expedition to Kilimandjaro. — A communication was read from Mr. J. H. Gurney, F.Z.S., on the geographical distribution of *Huhua nipalensis*, with remarks on this and other allied species of Owls. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

## 2. Linnean Society of London.

6th November, 1884. — Mr. R. A. Rolfe exhibited and made remarks on examples of British Oakgalls produced by Cynipidian insects of the genus *Neuroterus*, collected by him chiefly at Kew Gardens. He admitted that as a rule the plan and detail of the galls depend on the nature of the irritating fluid deposited by the insect; but at the same time the various species of oak have special influence in determining colour and often size of the galls. — A paper was read by Mr. George Brook, on some points in the Development of the Five-bearded Rockling, *Motella mustela*. In this attention was called to the following points: — 1) Whereas there is only one large oil globule in the normal egg of *Motella*, some times this is subdivided into from two to eight or even more, but in these cases there is always an abnormal development which often results in the death of the embryo. In those that survive the small oil globules always coalesce to form one large

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