

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

17th February, 1885. — A report was read on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of January 1885, and special attention was called to a Black-and-Yellow Hawfinch (*Mycerobas melanozanthus*) from Northern India, and an Andaman Starling (*Sturnia andamanensis*) from the Andaman Islands, new to the Society's Collection; and to a young male European Moose (*Alces machlis*), presented by Evelyn Hubbard, Esq. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.Z.S., read a paper upon the structure of the Cuckoos (Cuculidae), and pointed out the differences in the pterylosis and the structure of the syrinx in the various forms which he had examined. It was proposed to divide the family into three subfamilies: Cuculinae, Phoenicophainae, and Centropodinae. — Mr. F. E. Beddard read a paper upon the heart of *Apteryx*, and called attention to the variations in the condition of the right auriculo-ventricular valve observed in different individuals of this bird. — A communication was read from Mr. M. Jacoby containing the first part of an account of the Phytophagous Coleoptera obtained by Mr. George Lewis during his second journey in Japan, from February 1880 to September 1881. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

5th February, 1885. — A paper was read on the *Arbaciadae* Gray, part I. The morphology of the Test in the genera *Coelopleurus* and *Arbacia*, by Prof. P. Martin Duncan and W. Percy Sladen. The species of recent and fossil *Coelopleurus* and the recent forms of *Arbacia* examined, present some structural details of both primary and secondary Classificatory importance, which have hitherto been neglected and not recorded. The ambulacral plates differ from those of all other Echinoidea in the arrangement of the triplets, there being a central primary plate with an adoral and an aboral demi-plate. It is shown that there are no additional plates near the peristome in the species of *Arbacia*. The structure of the sutures especially of the median interradials is a modification of the doubling which has been described in *Temnopleurus*, by one of the authors. The double optic pore noticed by Lovén occurs in the fossil species of *Coelopleurus* and in *C. Mailardi*, a recent species. The authors compare the different forms and exclude *Arbacia nigra* from the genus *Arbacia*. The next part will deal with the classification. — Mr. W. F. Kirby, read a paper »On the Employment of the names proposed for genera of Orthoptera previously to 1840«. The author shows the application of every name proposed from the time of Linné to the publication of Servilles »Histoire Naturelle des Insectes Orthoptères« and he appends a full bibliography of the subject. — J. Murie.

3. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

31st December, 1884. — 1) Botanical. 2) Geological. — 3) Note on an apparently New Parasite affecting Sheep. By R. von Lendenfeld. In several localities sheep were affected by a disease, similar in appearance to Epithelial cancer, which appeared on the feet behind the hoofs and on the lips. The histological investigation shows, that the Rete Malphigii is inflamed and the Papillae attain a very large and abnormal size: the outer layer

of the skin, and the horny Epithelium are very much thickened, and it is apparent that between the horny layer granular masses apparently parasites are disposed in which nuclei can be detected. The Author supposes these to be an Amoeba, and to cause by irritation the hypertrophy of the Epithelium. The sections were exhibited under the microscope, the specimens were hardened with chromic acid and stained with picric-acid-carmin. — 4. On the Temperature of the Body of *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*. By N. de Miklouho-Maclay. The result of some observations on the temperature of the *Ornithorhynchus* is here given, showing it not to exceed 40° C. or 76° Fahr. Previous observations made by the Baron had shown that the temperature of the body of the Echidna was at least 5° Fahr. higher than of the other Monotreme. — Mr. W. H. Caldwell, B.A., exhibited several specimens which he had recently obtained in Queensland, showing the stages in the development of the Monotremes from the laying of the egg to the hatching. — Mr. J. Mitchell of Bowring, exhibited a large number of Silurian fossils collected by him in the neighbourhood of Bowring. They consisted of a variety of Molluscs, Corals and about sixteen species of Trilobites. Among the Trilobites are *Phacops caudatus*, *P. longicaudatus*, *P. encrinurus punctatus*, and *P. Jamesii* (?) *Calymene* (*Lenaria*?), *Harpes ungula*, *Stauropcephalus Murchisonii*, *Bronteus*, and several of the genus *Acidaspis* one of which attained a considerable size. The molluscs included representatives of *Pentamerus*, *Orthoceras*, *Avicula*, *Strophomena*, etc. — Mr. Macleay exhibited a specimen of *Ophiophagus elaps*, a venomous snake of the Indian region, and the largest known species of the venomous Colubrine snakes. He had received it from the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods from Perak. The specimen measured 142 inches in length, but the species had been known to attain a length of 170 inches. As its name implies it preys on other snakes, and its venom is so deadly, that it is said to kill a man in three minutes and an elephant in a couple of hours. — Mr. Gervase F. Mathew, F.L.S., of H.M.S. Espiégle, exhibited four boxes containing a collection of many hundred Lepidopterous Insects, which he had obtained during his last cruise on the South East Coast of New Guinea. The collection contained a few Microlepidoptera, but by far the greater part of it consisted of Diurnal Butterflies of the most gorgeous hues and of wonderful variety. — Mr. E. P. Ramsay, F.R.S.E., exhibited for Mr. E. G. W. Palmer a native Bees' Nest which had been obtained in the neighbourhood of Smithfield. For the last seven years it had been suspended from a branch of a pear tree in Mr. Palmer's garden, and a quart of honey had often been obtained from it, but during the last winter a caterpillar formed its cocoon in the only aperture and so effectually closed it that all the bees were killed. — Drawings were exhibited of some fossil bones which Mr. R. D. Fitzgerald, F.L.S., had received from Lord Howe's Island. The bones have been forwarded to Sir Richard Owen, and are believed to be those of two species of extinct lizards, probably allied to the gigantic horned *Megalania* and *Notiosaurus*, which have been found in the Pleistocene deposits in Queensland and New South Wales.

Berichtigung.

In No. 181 des Zool. Anz. sind auf p. 624 Z. 2 v. o. am Ende die Worte hinzuzufügen: »by the Author«.

In No. 187 p. 84 Z. 16 v. o. ist zu lesen »Max« anstatt »Al.«

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Da ich vom 15. März bis 14. April von Leipzig abwesend sein werde, bitte ich Mittheilungen, die einer sofortigen Beantwortung bedürfen, mir bis zum 12. März zugehen zu lassen.

J. Victor Carus.

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