

kable, not only by the possession of both fixed and movable nematophore, in accordance with which, like *Heteroplön* of the »Challenger« collection it holds a position intermediate between the typical Eleutheroplean and the Stetoplean genera — but by the fact that every hydrocladium is supported on a cylindrical pointed peduncle. Among other remarkable and significant forms is one to which the author gives the name of *Thuiaria heteromorpha*. In this are found combined in the same hydrophyton no less than three morphological types which if occurring separately would be justly regarded as representing three genera, *Thuiaria*, *Dermoscyphus*, and *Sertularia*. Notwithstanding this singular combination of forms, the author does not believe that the characters of the specimen justifies the construction of a new genus; and he regarded the generic position of the hydroid as determined by that one of the three forms which most decidedly prevails in it. *Thuiaria heteromorpha*, thus shows in a very marked way the indefiniteness of the boundaries between different zoological groups, and calls to mind a phenomenon known to occur among plants, as in certain epiphytical orchids, in which the same stem has been observed to carry flowers referable to several generic types. — J. Murie.

3. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

25th February, 1885. — 1. On some Reptiles from the Herbert River District, Queensland. By William Macleay, F.L.S., etc. Five new species are here described, *Hinulia picta*, and *Tetradactylus guttulatus* of the Family Scincidae, and of Ophidians *Nardoa crassa*, *Tropidonotus ater* and *Hoplocephalus assimilis*. — 2. Notes on certain Ceylonese Coleoptera, decribed by the late Francis Walker. By A. Sydney Olliff, Esq. In these Notes Mr. Olliff, who had examined Mr. Walker's types in the British Museum, endeavours to clear up the synonymy of the Clavicorn Families. The name *Asana* was proposed for the *Trogosita rhyzophagooides* of Walker, which cannot be referred to any known genus. In form it resembles *Lipaspis*, but is characterised by the presence of a scutellum. — 3. On the Flight of Birds. By R. von Lendenfeld, Ph.D. In this paper the author comments on the recent ingenious conclusions of Müllenhoff, and also gives an explanation of the mode in which Birds like Vultures circling in the air, can rise without flapping their wings. — Mr. C. S. Wilkinson exhibited some Fossil Bones which had been recently obtained from the coral sand rock on Lord Howe Island. Amongst them was an almost complete skull somewhat resembling that of the Horned Lizard *Megalania prisca*, from the Pleistocene deposits on the Darling Downs, Queensland. — Mr. Wilkinson also exhibited specimens of shells of oysters found in the beds of clay and sand at a depth of 40 feet below the surface, in sinking the new shaft of the Bullock Island and Wickham Coal Company near Newcastle. Mr. Brazier identified this oyster, which must have been 12 inches in length, as a large form of the *Ostrea edulis*. — Dr. J. Cox exhibited other specimens of the *Ostrea edulis* from Port Jackson, and found firmly attached to a bottle. He pointed out the great difference between this oyster, which will not keep for more than a day, and the English native oyster, and suggested that they are of separate species. Mr. E. P. Ramsay mentioned that the same oyster in South Australia keeps well for many days, and was of opinion that they were the same as the *O. edulis* of England. — Mr. Ramsay exhibited a Fossil phalanx of *Palaeorchestes*, from Wellington Caves, from the size of which he calculated

that the animal must have stood about 15 feet high. Also some Devonian shells and corals from the same district, in which the lime had been replaced by silica, and which had been cleared from the matrix by the application of muriatic acid. — Mr. Hirst exhibited a centipede (*Heterostoma*) 10 inches long, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch broad, from the Herbert River.

IV. Personal-Notizen.

Kopenhagen. Der Etatsrath, Prof. ord. der Zoologie J. J. S. Steenstrup ist vom 1. April an in den Ruhestand getreten. An seine Stelle als Prof. ord. ist der Museums-Inspector Dr. Chr. Lütken berufen worden. Zum Nachfolger Lütkens als Inspector wurde der Museums-Assistent Dr. J. E. V. Boas sowohl vom Museumsrath als vom academischen Senat einstimmig als der qualificirteste vorgeschlagen; der Minister hat aber den Cand. G. M. R. Levinse zu Inspector ernannt. In Folge dieser Ernennung hat Dr. Boas seine Stelle als Assistent niedergelegt.

Der Nachfolger des im April 1884 verstorbenen Prof. Schiødte als Inspector der entomologischen Abtheilung des Museums ist Dr. F. Meinert geworden.

Cambridge, Mass. Der langjährige Vorstand der mammologischen und ornithologischen Abtheilung des Museum of Comparative Zoology, Mr. J. A. Allen hat diese Stellung niedergelegt, und wird vom 1. Mai an die gleiche Stellung am American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York City einnehmen.

Necrolog.

Am 28. December 1884 starb in Walmer Mr. Sidney Smith im Alter von beinahe 80 Jahren. Er war bekannter Entomolog und Conchyliolog.

Am 11. Januar starb in Folge des Unfalls, daß er beim Übergang über den Don durch die Eisdecke brach, der bekannte Reisende und Zoolog N. Severtzow. Seine bedeutenden turkestanischen Sammlungen werden von Moskauer Gelehrten bearbeitet.

Am 7. Februar starb in London Mr. E. C. Rye, der Herausgeber des *Zoological Record*, im 52. Jahre.

Am 10. Februar starb in Davos Mr. Geoffroy Nevill, bekannt als Conchyliolog, lange Zeit Vorstand der conchologischen Abtheilung des Museums in Calcutta.

Am 13. März starb in Philadelphia Mr. Titian Ramsay Peale. Er war im October 1799 geboren. Als Naturforscher begleitete er den Commodore Wilkes auf der bekannten U. S. Exploring Expedition.

Berichtigung.

In No. 193 p. 241 Z. 1 v. u. lies „der Eier“ statt „des Eies“.

Der letzte Titel auf p. 176 in No. 191 (Goss, On *Brachyramphus*) ist zu streichen und auf p. 225 in No. 193 zu bringen (Aves).

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1885

Band/Volume: [8](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Anonymous

Artikel/Article: [3. Linnean Society of New South Wales 279-280](#)