

resp. Eau de Javelle zu erhalten sind. Den Procentsatz dieser Salzlösungen habe ich nicht genau in Erfahrung bringen können, die Angabe lautete lediglich: 0,7% wirksames Chlor; unzweifelhaft ist auch dieser Stoff das wirksame Element. Beide Flüssigkeiten haben ungefähr die gleiche Wirkung, nur tritt dieselbe bei dem Kalisalz etwas intensiver auf.

Beim Kochen löst die käufliche Flüssigkeit selbst die stärksten und härtesten Chitintheile der Insecten in kurzer Zeit vollständig auf, nachdem dieselben vorher glasartig durchsichtig und vollkommen farblos geworden sind. Verdünnt man die Lösung des Salzes mit dem 4—6fachen Volum Wassers und legt die zu untersuchenden Chitintheile frisch oder auch nach vorhergegangener Härtung bis 24 Stunden, und je nach der Dicke auch länger hinein, so erfolgt eine äußerlich nicht bemerkbare Veränderung des Chitins, welche demselben viel von seiner ursprünglichen Sprödigkeit nimmt, und es vor Allem für Farbstofflösungen durchlässiger macht. Zur völligen Durchfärbung erfordern die Objecte zwar immer noch je nach der Größe längere oder kürzere Zeit, allein dieselbe wird auch vollkommen schön und distinct, bei alkoholischen wie bei wässrigen Tinctionsmitteln. Auf unserem Institute sind nach dieser Methode Präparate von Pediculiden und Mallophagen angefertigt worden, welche außer großer Helligkeit auch vollkommene und klare Durchfärbung zeigen. Das Gleiche ist der Fall mit Nematoden und ihren Eiern. Bemerkenswerth außerdem ist bei dieser Behandlung vor Allem der Umstand, dass die unterliegenden Weichtheile durchaus geschont werden und die feinsten Structurverhältnisse (Muskelkästchen, Nervenendigungen) sich an ihnen noch studiren lassen. Es sind auf diese Weise Durchschnitte von Bienenköpfen gemacht worden, welche an Schönheit nichts zu wünschen übrig lassen. Jedenfalls verdient es dieses Reagens, dass weitere Versuche mit ihm angestellt werden.

Leipzig, 23. Mai 1885.

4. Zoological Society of London.

21st April, 1885. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March, and called attention to a female Roan Kangaroo (*Macropus erubescens*), being the third specimen of this Kangaroo acquired by the Society, and the first of the female sex; also to six Wattled Starlings (*Dilophus carunculatus*) from South Africa, and two Striated Colies (*Colius striatus*) — both species being new to the Collection. — Mr. Sclater exhibited and remarked on a pair of Pheasants from Bala Murghab, Northern Afghanistan, belonging to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. — Mr. G. E. Dobson, F.R.S., exhibited some skulls of *Crocodyrus aranea*, and pointed out that they possessed super-

nerary teeth (premolars) in the upper jaw. — The Secretary exhibited, on behalf of M. George Claraz, an egg of Darwin's Rhea; and read some notes by M. Claraz on the habits and distribution of this Rhea. — Mr. G. A. Boulenger exhibited a specimen of a Brazilian Snake which had partly swallowed an Amphisbaenoid Lizard. The Lizard had in its turn partly eaten its way out through the body of the Snake. — A communication was read from Sir Richard Owen, K.C.B., containing remarks on the structure of the heart in *Ornithorhynchus* and in *Apteryx*. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas read a paper on the characters of the different forms of the *Echidna* of Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea all of which he was inclined to refer to one varying species. — Dr. St. George Mivart, F.R.S., read a memoir on the anatomy, classification, and distribution of the Arctoidean Carnivorous Mammals. The author, after briefly noticing the papers of other naturalists who have of late years treated of this subject, described the main facts concerning the anatomy of the various Arctoid genera especially as regards their osteology and dentition, and gave detailed comparisons of the proportions of the various parts of the skeleton, comparing them with those of the Aeluroids and Cynoids. — Dr. F. H. H. Guillemand, F.Z.S., read the second part of his report on the collection of birds made during the voyage of the yacht 'Marchesa'. The present paper gave an account of the birds collected in Borneo. It also contained notes on some birds obtained on the island of Cagayan Sulu, on the north-east coast of Borneo. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

5. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

25th March, 1885. — 1. On a Devonian fossil, allied to *Worthenia* (de Koninck), from New South Wales. By F. Ratte, Eng. Arts and Manufactures. This fossil was obtained in the Murrumbidgee limestone, near Yass, by Mr. Jenkins, for the Australian Museum. It is interesting from its close resemblance to a new genus recently formed out of *Pleurotomaria* and others, by Professor de Koninck. It is, however, so different in many respects from all species of *Worthenia* as yet described, that it may probably require to be placed in a distinct genus. For the present, however, the author intends to leave it as above. — 2. On the Phoriaspongiae (Marshall). By Dr. R. von Lendenfeld. Both species described by Marshall have been found by the author, who considers them, together with some new species discovered by himself, to be Ceraospongiae, with Fleshspicules, and not, as Marshall had supposed, Desmacidonidae, or Cianidae, living in sand. There exist many sponges on the Australian shores with a skeleton consisting of arenaceous fibres, which form an irregular network, thus connecting the Phoriaspongiae with the ordinary horny sponges. Eleven species of horny sponges, with Fleshspicules, have been found in Australian waters. Their spicules are described and their relative position to other sponges discussed. The author upholds his previously published views on the relationship between Ceraospongiae and Monactinellidae, and discusses the hypothesis recently put forward by Vosmaer. — 3. Synonymy of, and remarks upon, four species of shells, originally described by Dr. J. E. Gray. By John Brazier, C.M.Z.S., etc. The four shells here mentioned — *Nassa livida*, *Strombus australis*, *Bulla australis*, and *Bullina lineata* — were all described by Gray in the years 1825 and 1827; but they have been ever since referred to

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1885

Band/Volume: [8](#)

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

Artikel/Article: [4. Zoological Society of London 334-335](#)