

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

29th July, 1885. — 1. A Monograph of the Australian Sponges. Part V. The Auleninae. By R. v. Lendenfeld, Ph.D. Several Sponges from various localities in the Australian region have been included by the author in this new subfamily, the members of which are characterized by a very peculiar structure not met with in any other Sponges. The new Subfamily *Auleninae* is placed in the Family Spongidae, and consists of the two new genera *Aulena* and *Halme*, with three species in all. The anatomy and histology of these is accurately described and illustrated by numerous plates. The *Auleninae* form honeycombed or complicated reticulate structures, the cavities form a kind of vestibule and are simple in *Halme*, where an outer lamella surrounds the whole sponge; or subdivided into numerous small compartments, as in *Aulena*, where no outer lamella exists. Into the system of Vestibule-Lacunae both the inhalent and the exhalent canals of the sponge open. The skeleton of *Halme* is composed of thick main fibres rich in sand, thin, simple and clean connecting fibres, and a hard cortex of sand cemented with spongiolin. The skeleton of *Aulena* is very peculiar. It consists of a regular network of fine horny threads in the joining points of which large sand grains are found. In the membranes of the Vestibule-Lacunae of this genus, nervous elements, sensitive and ganglia cells have been discovered by the author. These and many other histological details are described in the paper, which dwells also on the morphological significance of these interesting new sponges. — 2. On a Sponge Destructive to Oyster Culture in the Clarence River. By R. v. Lendenfeld, Ph.D. In this Paper the author describes a new Sponge *Chalinula Coxii*, which appeared some years ago on certain oyster beds in the Clarence River, and destroyed some of them completely. — 3. Jottings from the Biological Laboratory of Sydney University. By William A. Haswell, M.A., B.Sc., F.L.S., etc., Lecturer on Zoology and Comparative Anatomy. This paper contains — 1st. Some Notes on an Australian species of *Bonellia*, which seems scarcely to differ from the European species *Bonellia viridis*; and 2ndly. Some observations on Aquatic Respiration in fresh water Turtles. — J. Brazier, C.M.Z.S., etc., exhibited specimens of the bones, dried ink-bags, and pigment of both sexes of *Sepia plangon*, Gray, from Port Jackson, also similar preparations of *Sepia capensis*, from Bondi. He also exhibited mounted specimens of the valves and mantles of *Chiton spiniger* Sowb., from Port Denison, and of *Chiton petholatus*, from Port Jackson. — Mr. Masters exhibited a fine collection of the magnificent *Ornithoptera Brookeana*, from Borneo. — Mr. Fletcher exhibited the young of *Pseudophryne Australis*, and mentioned some points of interest in regard to its development. The ova are laid under stones, after rain, on the margin of ponds. In about three weeks the embryos have reached the condition of fully formed tadpoles, which can sustain a prolonged postponement of their hatching. Specimens were shown, in which the embryos were seen still coiled up in their gelatinous envelopes, developed from ova collected more than three months ago. When placed in water, a number of these tadpoles emerged within the space of an hour; a

fact which explains their sudden appearance in swarms after heavy rain in places which had been previously quite dry. No trace of external gills have been detected. A fuller account is in course of preparation. — Mr. A. Sidney Olliff exhibited the Coleoptera belonging to the groups *Clavicornia* and *Rhynchophora*, collected by Mr. Edward Whymper during his ascent of Chimborazo, Pichincha, and other mountains in Ecuador. The species were mostly small and dull coloured, but were of great interest on account of their having been obtained at elevations varying from 1400 to 16000 feet. They will be fully described in the Natural History Appendix to Mr. Whymper's forthcoming work. — Mr. E. P. Ramsay, F.R.S.E., Curator of the Australian Museum, exhibited (1) a very large specimen of a sea urchin, *Tripneustes angulosus*, from the New South Wales Coast. (2) An Albino Tui or »Parson bird« from New Zealand *Prosthemadera Novae-Zelandiae*, and (3), an Albino Ground Parrot, *Psephotus haematonotus*, which latter bird had been presented to the Museum by Mr. McCooley of Dubbo. This bird was obtained near Warren. — Mr. Ramsay also read a letter from Sir Richard Owen respecting a new species of *Thylacoleo*, the bones of which had been recently discovered in the Wellington Caves. — Mr. Macleay exhibited four immature specimens of *Holostoma alatum*, the *Distoma alatum* of Rudolphi, from a very young puppy. He said that this is believed to be the only Trematode Worm which infests Dogs, but is much more common in the wild species, as the Wolf and Fox, than in the domestic animal. Its History is unknown. — Mr. Ratte made a note of some corrections required in Plate 9, Vol. X, of the Society's Proceedings, containing figures of *Ptychomphalus*. — Dr. Cox made some observations on the migrations of the Maray, the fish known as the »Australian Pilchard« and »Picton Bloater«, *Clupea sagax*, and called attention to the importance of ascertaining the time and place of spawning.

IV. Personal-Notizen.

Lausanne. An Stelle von Prof. Du Plessis ist Dr. Henri Blanc zum Professor der Zoologie an der naturwissenschaftlichen Facultät der Academie in Lausanne ernannt worden.

Necrolog.

Am 14. Mai starb in Montpellier Dr. Ernest Dubrueil, 56 Jahre alt, Sohn des Anatomen Dubrueil. Zum Juristen erzogen und im Begriffe in den Verwaltungsdienst einzutreten, erlitt er im Alter von 25 Jahren eine Hemiplegie, welche ihn veranlaßte, seine Laufbahn aufzugeben und sich seinen früheren Nebenbeschäftigungen ausschließlich zu widmen. Anatomische und faunistische Arbeiten über die Mollusken Süd-Frankreichs machten ihn weiteren Kreisen bekannt. Im Juni 1872 erschien das erste Heft der von ihm gegründeten und bis 1881 redigirten Revue des Sciences Naturelles, eine Sammlung werthvoller Mittheilungen vorwiegend naturgeschichtlichen und vergleichend anatomischen Inhalts, welche seit jenem Jahre von Professor A. Sabatier weiter geführt wird.

Am 25. Juli starb in Haarlem Dr. H. Weyenbergh, Professor der Zoologie in Córdoba, im Alter von 42 Jahren.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1885

Band/Volume: [8](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Anonymous

Artikel/Article: [1. Linnean Society of New South Wales 587-588](#)