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II. Wissenschaftliche Mittheilungen.

1. Letter (on Dr. K. Heider's Paper on *Oscarella lobularis*).

From Professor W. J. Sollas.

eingeg. 9. Juli 1886.

Trinity College, Dublin, July 5th 1886.

Sir,

I have just read with great interest the clear account given by Dr. Karl Heider of the metamorphosis of *Oscarella lobularis* O. S. already referred to in the »Anzeiger«. I can well believe that Dr. Heider's observations are more accurate than his criticisms are just. Dr. Heider without having seen my preparations characterises the representations of them as somewhat grotesque and not very faithful (wenig naturgetreuen Darstellungen). This is a proceeding which I refrain from characterising. At the same time I assert the accuracy of every line in my drawings, which indeed are merely servilely faithful tracings made by the help of camera lucida. As to Dr. Karl Heider's hypothesis that the gastrula-like structures figured by me are

merely shrivelled blastulae, it seems to me wonderful how any one could entertain it after reading my account of their structure and formation. The most conclusive answer I can offer Dr. Heider on this point is that in glycerine-mounted slides these structures are not shrunk in the very least but completely fill the cavities of the mother sponge in which they occur.

2. Diagnoses Reptilium Novorum ab ill. viris O. Herz et Consule Dr. O. Fr. de Moellendorff in Sina meridionali repertorum.

Auctore Dr. O. Boettger, Francofurti ad Moenum.

eingeg. 10. Juli 1886.

Scincidae.

Tropidophorus Sinicus n. sp.

Differt a *Trop. Bermorei* (Blyth) seriebus squamarum 29 nec 34—38 nec non internasalibus et postmentalibus divisibus, a *Trop. Cochinchinensi* Dum. & Bibr. rostro acutiore, squamis dorsi non mucronatis, membris brevioribus, colore. — Series longitudinales squamarum 29. Carinae squamarum dorsi modicae; gularia et ventralia laevia; praeanalalia 2 magna. Rostrale transversum margine supero et infero parallelis; internasalia 2, utrumque subtriangulare, antice acutatum. Supralabialia 6, quartum oculo suppositum. Paria 4 postmentalium, primum par minutum, duo paria anteriora media parte contigua. Squamae temporales carinatae.

Supra fuscus, regionibus frontali nec non collari taeniis transversis 2—3 latis flavidis et ad latera dorsi maculis quinque magnis nigris alboocellatis eleganter pictus. Latera capitis nigra, verticaliter albo-taeniata; basis capitis gulaeque alba nigrotessellata.

Long. capitis usque ad apicem interparietalis 11,5, trunci 57,5, caudae (mutilatae) 39 mm, long. tota 108 mm. Membr. anter. 16, poster. 23,5 mm longum. — Ratio long. membr. ant.: long. capitis + trunci = 1 : 4,31 (in *Tr. Cochinchinensi* 1 : 3,44); long. membr. post.: long. capitis + trunci = 1 : 2,94 (in *Tr. Cochinchinensi* 1 : 2,61).

Hab. Prope vicum Ding-hu-shan ad flumen Si-kiang provinciae Sinicae Guang-dung (1 spec.).

Oligodontidae.

Simotes Herzi n. sp.

Differt a *Sim. trinotato* Dum. & Bibr. praeoculari singulo nec binis, supralabialibus septenis neque octonis, quorum tertium quartumque

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Artikel/Article: [1. Letter \(on Dr. K. Heider's Paper on Oscarella lobularis\) 518-519](#)