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LIST OF PAPERS.

	Page
ALLMAN, GEORGE JAMES, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., &c., Pres. L.S. Diagnoses of new Genera and Species of Hydroida. (Plates IX. to XXIII. inclusive.)	251
ANDERSON, JOHN, M.D., F.L.S., &c. On the Cloacal Bladders and on the Peritoneal Canals in Chelonia	434
Note on the Plastron of the Gangetic Mud-Turtle (<i>Emyda dura</i> of Buchanan Hamilton). (With a woodcut.)	514
Note on <i>Arctomys dichrous</i> . (Plate XXXI.)	579
BUTLER, ARTHUR G., F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. Descriptions of five new Species of <i>Gonyleptes</i> . (Plate VIII.)	151
Notes on the Lepidoptera of the Family Zygaenidae, with De- scriptions of new Genera and Species. (Plates XXVII. & XXVIII.)	342
On the Subfamilies Antichlorinae and Charideinae of the Lepi- dopterous Families Zygaenidae and Arctiidae. (Plate XXIX.)	408
COBBOLD, T. SPENCER, M.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., &c. On the supposed Rarity, Nomenclature, Structure, Affinities, and Source of the large human Fluke (<i>Distoma crassum</i> , Busk). (With a woodcut.)	285
DAVIDSON, THOMAS. Note on a new Species of Japanese Brachiopoda	109
DAY, FRANCIS, F.L.S., Surgeon-Major. Introduction of Trout and Tench into India	562

saltem *Picum viridem*, cujus quidem generis alias species tres, *P. martium*, *P. majorem*, et *P. medium*, una tantum vena jugulari et quidem dextra præditas esse Rathkuis docet, non huc, sed ad regulam secundam pertinentem cognovi."

I conceive it is quite possible Barkow might have made the error of supposing only one vein present, if his observations had been conducted on such a bird as the Short-tailed Tit, or even on a spirit specimen of a less distinctly atrophied bird. Still more might he have been misled in case of a Sparrow; for in this bird (*Passer domesticus*) but the veriest rudiment of the left vein exists, and it ceases to be a tubular structure at about half the length of the cervix from its origin. I very carefully threw a blue injection into the vessel from the transverse trunk at the skull-base, and got the fluid to run as a fine line so far as I have stated, where it was stayed by a blind ending of the vein, which beneath this point was indistinguishable from the fatty and connective tissue with which the pneumogastric nerve was associated.

In the only example of the Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) I have had the fortune to examine, the two vessels showed a considerably greater disproportion than that figured by Neugebauer, a fact which leads me to think that age may, to great extent, determine the obliteration of an organ in natural atrophy; *i. e.* in this particular instance a young bird will possess a less-attenuated left jugular vein than an adult.

Examination of developmental changes, however, will afford much information in this matter; and I anticipate we shall find the growing embryo to exhibit gradations varying from equality in the size of the veins to the adult differences already noted. This would be in agreement with Von Baer's law of progress from the general to the special; for it is a fact worth knowing that all the birds, so far, exhibiting this considerable suppression of the left jugular vein have been from Prof. Huxley's division of the Ægithognathæ. Moreover Alektoromorphous birds show gradations of structure varying from close equality to differences as much as one to three, beyond which they would seem not to approach the group named above.

How far the peculiarities I have described are structural adaptations subserving function, I hope to be able to speak with some authority later, as also regarding their full morphological import. I can do no more now than state my full conviction that they possess a definite meaning, and one to be determined by the spe-

cial functional (?) requirements of the organism. It is these requirements that need further elucidation.

In conclusion, I wish to say this paper is intended to be only preliminary to a more extended series of observations on the points it discusses; and though it may seem a meagre production, I fancied that even such brief notes might claim notice by this Society.

I shall be very grateful to any one who will help me to obtain spirit specimens of the rarer birds, and especially of the genus *Picus*.

A List of Marine Shells, chiefly from the Solomon Islands, with Descriptions of several new Species. By EDGAR A. SMITH, F.Z.S., Zoological Department, British Museum. Communicated by Dr. J. MURIE, F.L.S.

[Read April 6, 1876.]

(PLATE XXX.)

THE shells enumerated in the following paper have been presented to the British Museum by Mr. John Brazier, of Sydney. A list of them was thought worthy of publication, as precise localities, in most instances, are attached to them, the majority having been collected by Mr. Brazier himself. At the same time, the habitats originally assigned to the various species by the authors are quoted, since so many which are given to species in the Cumingian collection are erroneous.

1. *CONUS MAGUS*, Linn. *Kiener, Cog. Viv.* pl. 67. f. 1-1c; *Reeve, Conch. Ic.* f. 190 a-e; *Sowerby, Thesaurus Conch.* f. 508-512 & f. 513, 514, & 525 (as *C. circæ*); *Weinkauff in Küster's Conch.-Cab.* pl. 6. f. 1 & 3, pl. 15. f. 3, 4, pl. 19. f. 5, 6, pl. 57. f. 8-11.—Var. = *C. indicus*, *Chemnitz, Conch.-Cab.* x. f. 1295.—*C. clandestinus*, *Chemnitz, l. c.* f. 1296.—*C. circæ*, *Chemnitz, l. c.* xi. f. 1778-9.—*C. fenellus*, *Chemnitz, l. c.* xi. f. 1782-3; *Küster*, pl. 26. f. 12, 13.—*C. raphanus*, *Hwass, Sowerby, Thesaurus*, f. 494; *Küster*, pl. 2. f. 3.—*C. carinatus*, *Swainson, Reeve, Conch. Ic.* f. 175; *Kiener*, pl. 27. f. 2-2a; *Sowerby*, f. 495.—*C. ustulatus*, *Reeve*, f. 239; *Sowerby*, f. 516 & 647; *Küster*, pl. 52. f. 3, 4.—*C. epistomium*, *Reeve*, f. 227 a, b; *Kiener*, pl. 55. f. 6; *Sowerby*, f. 515.—*C. epistomioides*, *Weinkauff, Küster's Conch.-Cab.* pl. 57. f. 6-7.—*C. striolatus*, *Kiener*, pl. 105. f. 1; *Reeve, Suppl.* pl. 6. f. 262; *Sowerby*, f. 327, 328 (as *ustulatus*).—*C. borneensis*,

Sowerby (name preoccupied!), *Thesaurus*, f. 648.—C. Frauenfeldi, Crosse, *Journal de Conch.* 1865, vol. xiii. p. 307, pl. x. f. 1-10.—C. assimilis, A. Adams, *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1853, p. 118; Sowerby, f. 505; C. consul, Boivin, *Journal de Conch.* 1864, vol. xii. pl. 1. f. 5, 6.

Hab. Strong Island, Caroline Group (Brazier).

This polymorphous species is almost as widely distributed, geographically, as it is variable in form and coloration. In the British Museum there is a very large series, consisting of about eighty examples, from various authentic localities, viz. Philippine Islands, Moluccas, Night Island, North Australia, Louisiade archipelago, Borneo, New Holland, New Guinea, and Madagascar.

Of the preceding pseudo-species the types of *epistomium* of Reeve, and *ustulatus* of the same author, *Frauenfeldi*, of Crosse, *assimilis* of A. Adams, and *borneensis* of Sowerby are in the national collection. The last-mentioned author appears to have overlooked the fact of having previously figured a species under the name of *borneensis*, which was originally described (in the Voyage of the Samarang) by A. Adams and Reeve. Weinkauff has erroneously placed Sowerby's species among the synonyms of *C. anemone*.

2. *CONUS VAYSETIANUS*, Crosse, *Journ. de Conchyl.* 1872, xx. pp. 154 & 349, pl. xvi. f. 1; Weinkauff, in *Küster's Conchyl.-Cab.* pl. lxxi. f. 4.

Hab. New Caledonia.

The specimen sent by Mr. Brazier exhibits only the slightest trace of the white markings which are mentioned by Crosse as existing around the middle of the shell; and the colour is a bright orange rather than "castaneo-fusca."

3. *C. MONACHUS*, Linn. Reeve, *Conch. Icon.* f. 122 a-c; Kiener, pl. 50. f. 1-1a; Sowerby, f. 506, 507; Küster, pl. 34. f. 5, 6.—Var. = *Voluta cosmographia*, Martyn, *Univ. Conch.* iv. pl. 125. f. on right.—C. achates, Meuschen.—C. achatinus, Chemnitz, Reeve, f. 191a; Kiener, pl. 40. f. 1-1c, pl. 50. f. 1 c-d (as *monachus*, var.); Sowerby, f. 335, 336; Küster, pl. 5. f. 3 & 9.—C. minimus, Gmelin (non Linn.), *Syst. Nat.* p. 3382.—C. ranunculus, Hwass, Reeve, f. 191 b.—C. vinctus, A. Adams, *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1853, p. 118.

Hab. Solomon Island (Brazier).

Other localities for this species are Port Essington, Quail Island, and Paterson's Bay, N. Australia.

4. *TEREBRA CANCELLATA*, Quoy & Gaimard. Sowerby, *Thesaurus Conch.* i. pl. 44. f. 80; Reeve, *Conch. Ic.* vol. xii. f. 58 a-b.—T. undatella, Deshayes, *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1859, p. 300.

Hab. Port Elliot, South Australia (Brazier), Philippine Islands (Cuming)

5. *PLEUROTOMA* (—?) *DIGITALE*, Reeve.—Pl. digitale, Reeve, *Conch. Icon.* i. f. 138.

Hab. San Christoval, Solomon Islands (Brazier), Philippine Islands (Cuming).

6. *P.* (—?) *BIJUBATA*, Reeve, *Conch. Icon.* i. f. 87 (bad).

Hab. San Christoval, Solomon Islands (Brazier); Philippine Islands (Cuming).

7. *P.* (—?) *SOLOMONENSIS*, sp. nov. Pl. XXX. fig. 6.

Testa fusiformis, subturrita, albida, inter costas strigis longitudinalibus nigro-fuscis et suturam infra punctis parvis fuscis ornata; anfractus 13, primi duo læves, cæteri infra suturam carina elevata marginati, infra carinam concavi, medio angulati, inferne decliviter contracti, costis 9-10 medio angulatis, superne versus carinam sensim evanescentibus instructi, et striis transversis 5-6 inter costas sculpti; anfr. ultimus versus basim attenuatus, costis inferne attenuantibus, pone labrum subdistantibus, et interdum aliis minoribus in interstitiis ad basim sitis instructus; apertura elongata, augustissima, alba, fusco longitudinaliter strigata, longitudinis testæ totius circiter $\frac{2}{3}$ æquans; labrum medio prominens, superne mediocriter, et prope basim levisime sinuatum; columella subrecta, haud arcuata, tenuiter callosa, ad suturam tuberculo subvalido munita; canalis angustus, paululum elongatus, rectiusculus, vix recurvus. Long. 23 mill., diam. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Hab. San Christoval, Solomon Islands.

A young specimen of this species was presented to the British Museum, in 1874, by Mr. G. B. Sowerby, junior; and at the time I placed it, with doubt, as a variety of *varicosa*, Reeve. The second example, received from Mr. Brazier, being mature, proves that this form is distinct from Reeve's shell. It displays, at intervals, a slight tendency to varices, but not in such a marked manner as *varicosa*, from which it is well distinguished by the angular ribs, the more attenuated body-whorl, the dark brown stripes between the ribs, and the series of brown dots on the infrasutural keel, one spot being beneath each interstice between the ribs of the whorl above. The aperture in the present species is also narrower and longer, the columella straighter, and the canal rather more elongate. The ribs on the body-whorl near the base, and the interstitial ones between them, which sometimes