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REPTILIA.

BY

DR. F. H. TROSCHEL

SYSTEMA reptilium auctore Leopoldo Fitzinger; Fasciculus primus. Amblyglossæ. Vindobonæ, 1843. The author gives an introductory general view of his System of the Animal Kingdom, in which he classifies all animals, as far as into orders, on the supposition that in each division one system of organs must be specially developed. Thus, according to him, the class of Reptiles is that in which the function of generation, and at the same time the muscular system, are especially developed, in opposition to that of the Fishes in which nutrition, together with the osseous system, would seem to be particularly developed. The further division of the Reptiles, like that of the other Vertebrata, is then proceeded with, according to the predominant development of the five senses: (1) Touch: Rhizodonta, with the orders Cetosauri, Loricata, and Ornithosauri; (2) Taste: Dipnoa, with the orders Ichthyodea, Hemibatrachia, Batrachia; (3) Smell: Testudinata, with the orders Oiacopoda, Steganopoda, Tylopoda; (4) Hearing: Leptoglossæ, with the orders Ophidia, Hemisauri, and Sauri; (5) Sight: Amblyglossæ, with the orders Ascalabotæ, Humivagæ, Dendrobotæ.—The Crocodiles consequently have been obliged to part company with the Saurians, because the male has five senses, and necessarily come under the tactile Reptiles (Gefühlsreptilien), which might now be associated (schwärmen)

with the Ornithosauri. Why each division must necessarily be subdivided into three orders is not stated. To this succeeds a Schema Systematis, constituting a list of the Amblyglossæ, down to genera and subgenera. The principal part of the work is then occupied with the definition of the genera in copious Latin diagnoses, as also of the subgenera, to the multiplying of which the author appears much inclined, but which is not unsupported in the diagnoses. The most marked diagnostic characters are always placed at the commencement of the diagnoses, an arrangement which is very conducive to the convenient use of the book, and in which respect it has an advantage over many others. With respect to the nomenclature especial care has been taken to do justice to priority, which has become very necessary, especially in the Amphibia. Under each genus the known species are enumerated, with names, synonyms, and habitat, and with each is given a notice of the collections in which they occur. Many new names originate from the splitting up of the genera, but an extract from this work would lead too far, and I must consequently refer to the Part itself.

The Verhandelingen over de natuurlijke Geschiedenis der Nederlandsche overzeesche bezittingen, door de Leden der Natuurkunde commissie in Indie en andere Schryvers uitgegeven op Lase van den Koning door C. I. Temminck, Zoologie; Leiden, 1839—1844, are now completed. The Amphibia have been arranged by Sal. Müller and Herm. Schlegel. The following are described and figured as new: *Crocodylus (Gavialis) Schlegelii*, *Testudo emys*, *Trigonocephalus formosus*. Besides these, figures are given of *Monitor prasinus*, *Monitor Dumerilii*, *Homalopsis leucobalia*, *Elaps Mülleri*, *Naja bungarus*. Speaking generally, thirty-five Amphibia are found in the islands of the Indian Archipelago, viz.:

<i>Crocodylus vulgaris</i>	. . .	Java.
<i>biporcatus</i>	. . .	Java.
<i>Gavialis Schlegelii</i>	. . .	Java.

<i>Trionyx stellatus</i>	. . . . .	Java.
<i>subplanus</i>	. . . . .	Java, Sumatra, Borneo.
<i>Emys Couro</i>	. . . . .	Java, Borneo, Celebes, Amboyna.
<i>subtrijuga</i>	. . . . .	Java.
<i>Diardii</i>	. . . . .	Java, Sumatra.
<i>platynota</i>	. . . . .	Sumatra.
<i>spinosa</i>	. . . . .	Borneo.
<i>crassicollis</i>	. . . . .	Borneo.
<i>borneocensis</i>	. . . . .	Borneo.
<i>Testudo emys</i> , n. sp.	. . . . .	Sumatra.
<i>Forstenii</i> , n. sp.	. . . . .	Gilolo.
<i>Monitor bivittatus</i>	. . . . .	Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Celebes.
<i>chlorostigma</i>	. . . . .	Amboyna, Gilolo, New Guinea, Rawak, Waigeou, and New Ireland.
<i>timoriensis</i>	. . . . .	Timor.
<i>prasinus</i>	. . . . .	New Guinea.
<i>Dumerilii</i>	. . . . .	Borneo, Pelo-Bato, near Sumatra.
<i>Trigonocephalus rhodostoma</i>	. . . . .	Java.
<i>punicus</i>	. . . . .	Java.
<i>viridis</i>	. . . . .	Sumatra, Banca, Timor.
<i>Wagleri</i>	. . . . .	Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes.
<i>formosus</i> (vid. infr.)	. . . . .	Sumatra.
<i>Homalopsis buccata</i>	. . . . .	Java, Borneo.
<i>Schneideri</i>	. . . . .	Widely distributed.
<i>decussata</i>	. . . . .	Java.
<i>plumbea</i>	. . . . .	Java, Borneo, Celebes.
<i>aër</i>	. . . . .	Java, Borneo, Bengal.
<i>leucobalia</i>	. . . . .	Timor.
<i>Elaps furcatus</i>	. . . . .	Java.
<i>bivirgatus</i>	. . . . .	Java, Sumatra, Borneo.
<i>Mülleri</i>	. . . . .	New Guinea.
<i>Najatripudians</i> , var. <i>sondaica</i>	. . . . .	Java, Sumatra, and Borneo.
<i>bungarus</i>	. . . . .	Java.

The text relating to the Amphibia occupies seventy-two pages, and ten plates are devoted to them.

Of Andrew Smith's Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa, the 20th and 21st Parts appeared in 1844. In the former of these there are figured, of the Amphibia, *Cordylus giganteus*, n. s., old and young; *Gerrhosaurus flavigularis*, Wieg., old and young; *Gerrh. Bibroni*, n. sp.; *Gerrh.*

typicus, Dum. Bibr.; and in the latter, *Acanthodactylus capensis*, n. sp., male and female; *Platysaurus capensis*, n. gen.; *Gerrhosaurus subtessellatus*, n. sp.; *Gerrh. sepiformis*, Dum. Bibr., and the heads and femoral pores of the above-named species of *Gerrhosaurus*, to which also *G. lineatus* and *bifasciatus* are added. The diagnoses of the new species are given below.

James Linsley gives a list of the Amphibia [Reptilia] of Connecticut. (Silliman's American Journal, xlvi, p. 37.) Altogether fifty-six Amphibia [Reptilia] are enumerated, among which are thirteen Chelonian, two Saurian, eighteen Ophidian, eleven ecaudate and twelve caudate Batrachians. Descriptions of the species are not given.

Duvernoy, *Fragments sur les organes génito-urinaires des reptiles et leurs produits*. (Comptes rendus xix, p. 249, 285, 948.) This paper treats (1) on the vesical calculi of the soft Chelonii; (2) on the existence of fossil urolithes; (3) on the sexual organs of the male and female of the Salamander and Tritons; (4) on the kidneys of the Salamander and Tritons.

CHELONII.

The only new Chelonians described are those above mentioned by Sal. Müller and Schlegel, viz. *Testudo emys*, from Sumatra, and *Testudo Forstenii*, from Gilolo.

SAURI.

Rusconi (in Müller's Archiv, 1844, p. 508) communicates his observations on the African Chameleon, and shows that this animal does not project its long, glutinous tongue towards insects, from its erection in consequence of sanguineous congestion, but by the action of the muscles. This projection takes place with great rapidity, and the stroke is attended with a faint sound. A figure illustrates this account.

A more detailed monograph on the Chameleon is promised.

New Lizards have been described only by Smith in his 'Illustrations.'

Cordylus giganteus. Flavo-brunneus inferne pallidior, dorso caudâ superne extremitatibusque superne fusco-nebulatis; occipite, temporibusque postice spinis fortibus triangularibus in ordine singulo armatis; dorsi squamis leviter carinatis, laterum fortiter spinosis; caudâ superne pinosissima; extremitatibus anterioribus inferne squamis tuberculosi; poris femoralibus decem. 15". Quathlamba Mountains.

Gerrhosaurus Bibroni. Superne brunneus lineis duabus sublatis et duabus angustis variegatis, his ad basin caudæ, illis versus apicem desinentibus; mento, gulâ, capitis lateribus, gutture, extremitatibusque anterioribus interne miniatis; pectore abdomineque griseo-albis; scuto occipitali rhombico. 10½". At the springs of Caledon, a tributary of the Orange River.—*G. subtessellatus*. Dorso flavo-brunneo, linea albâ brunneaque tessellata in utroque latere marginato; partibus inferioribus carnis cupreo-viridè-tinctis; corpore fortiter depresso, squamis lævibus. 6". Namaqualand.

Acanthodactylus capensis—*Mas*. Superne flavo-brunneus, lateribus nigro-brunneis, et macularum albarum, seriebus duabus et lineis duabus, longitudinalibus ejusdem coloris variegatis; partibus inferioribus ochraceis; digitis externe dentatis. *Fem*. Superne pallide aurantiis, lateribus rubro-aurantiis, superne inferneque linea subalbida, marginatis; partibus inferioribus ochraceis, versus latera nigro-brunneo tessellatis. 10½" Namaqualand.

Platysaurus, nov. gen. Teeth short, numerous, narrow; nasal openings circular, on the posterior and inferior border of the nasal scute; frontal plate simple; fronto-parietal plates four, as in *Cordylus*; palpebral plates as in *Gerrhosaurus*. Body flat, scales very small, triangular on the abdomen and in transverse rows, femoral pores small but distinct, jugular folds rudimentary. *Pl. capenses*, superne, griseo-brunneus, dorso fasciis tribus, subalbidis notato; capite corporeque partiter depressis; corporis squamis parvis; poris femoralibus 18; cauda versus basin depressa, versus apicem cylindracea; partibus inferioribus viridi-flavis. 7¾". Namaqualand.

Tropidolepisma striatum, Peters (Bericht der Acad. zu Berlin, 1844, p. 36), appears to me to be *Euprepes sechellensis*, D. B.

SERPENTES.

Of Dumeril and Bibron's *Herpetologie générale*, the sixth part appeared in 1844, containing the commencement of the Serpents. After an introduction, in which are detailed the principles upon which all the existing systems

are founded, the authors develop that followed by themselves. They divide the Serpents into five sections :

1. *Vermiformes* (Scolecophides). Teeth in one jaw only ; body of uniform size throughout, vermiform. The upper jaw only moveable, intermaxillary and nasal bones and vomer firmly united ; no poison-fangs or grooved teeth.

2. *Cicuriformes* (Azemiophides). All the facial bones moveable, superior maxillary bones very long ; teeth in both jaws ; no poison-fangs or grooved teeth.

3. *Fidendiformes* (Aphobocrophides). All the facial bones moveable, teeth in both jaws, the posterior teeth of the upper jaw grooved, the anterior entire ; not venomous.

4. *Fallaciformes* (Apistophides). All the facial bones moveable, teeth in both jaws, the anterior teeth of the upper jaw grooved ; venomous.

5. *Viperiformes* (Thanatophides). All the facial bones moveable, teeth in both jaws ; poison-fangs in the upper jaw ; venomous.

To a general consideration of the various organs of serpents succeeds the special part, in which, in the first place, the Vermiformes are divided into two families.—TYPHLOPIANS.—Lower jaw without teeth ; with the genera *Pitidion*, *Ophthalmidion*, *Cathetorhinus*, *Onychocephalus*, *Typhlops*, *Cephalolepis*.—CATODONIANS.—Lower jaw with teeth, comprising the genera *Sternostoma*.

In the section Cicuriformes the first two families only are treated of in this volume. The PYTHONIANS are divided into three tribes : Pythonides, intermaxillary teeth, with the genera *Morelia*, *Python*, *Liasis*, *Nardoa* ; Erycides, without intermaxillary teeth and without prehensile tail, containing only the genus *Eryx* ; Boacides, without intermaxillary teeth, with prehensile tail, including the genera *Enygrus*, *Leptoboa*, *Tropidophis*, *Platy-gaster*, *Boa*, *Pelophilus*, *Eunectes*, *Xiphosoma*, *Epicrates*, *Chilabothrus*.—The TORTRICIANS consist of the genera *Tortrix* and *Cylindrophis*. Sixty-five species in all are described in this volume.

Dr. T. S. Savage has given some notices on the habits of *Python natalensis*, and has described several instances in which it had wound itself round and crushed animals. It sometimes coils the tail around some [fixed] object in order to enable itself to exert more force upon its prey ; sometimes it inserts the rudimental feet in fissures in the ground [or under rocks], thus affording a fulcrum [which gives inconceivable force to the blow]. It also employs the rudimental feet in ascending trees, for which purpose it inserts

them into chinks in the bark. (Annals, xiv, p. 148, and Froriep's n. Notiz. xxxii, p. 198.

Trigonocephalus formosus, instituted by Sal. Müller and Schlegel (l. c.), differs from *Tr. Wagleri* in the much less strongly keeled scales, the larger labial scutes, more numerous abdominal scutes, and in the different disposition of the colouring.

BATRACHIA.

Prévost and Lebert (Mémoire sur la formation des organes de la circulation et du sang dans les Batraciens. (Annales des Sc. Nat., 3me Série, t. i, p. 193.)

Vogt (ib. p. 45) has published some observations on the Embryology of the Batrachians.

Schlotthauber has described in these Archives (1844, i, p. 257), a variety of *Rana temporaria*, from the neighbourhood of Hamburg.

Dactylethra Mülleri, Peters (Bericht d. Acad. zu Berlin, 1844, p. 37), differs from *D. capensis* in having a tubercle on the nape and a tentacle beneath each eye. The extremities are ochreous-yellow beneath, with black spots. Mozambique.

Küster has described *Salamandra Genei*, of which he procured two living specimens in Sardinia. It differs from *Salamandra* in the want of the aural glands and in the smooth body, from *Triton* in the smooth skin and the round tail, from *Geotriton* in the conformation of the toes, which are, as it were, cut off at the extremity and connected by a web. The animal, probably, constitutes a distinct genus. (Isis, 1844, p. 655.)

Owen has described a new species of Axolotl, in the Annals (xiv, p. 23). The species are characterised as follows:

1. *Axolotes guttata* (*Siren pisciformis*), fusca, nigro-guttata, capite antice rotundato, cauda compresso-lanceolata.
2. *A. maculata*, nov. species, grisea, nigro-marmorata, subtus lactea, capite antice truncato, cauda compresso-rotundata. 3"-5". Mexico. A figure on wood of the latter species is added.