

## 2. Linnean Society of London.

15th June, 1882. — Prof. E. Ray Lankester read »Notes on some Habits of the Scorpions, *Androctonus funestris* Ehr. and *Euscorpium italicus* Roes. Of the former he related their manner of burrowing in the sand, making horizontal tunnels occasionally 8 inches long. The process of exuviation was also witnessed on several occasions, when the scorpion pushing its large chelae into the sand scraped rapidly backwards with the three anterior pairs of walking legs. The specimens of *Androctonus* evidently were timid; in walking they raise their body, and the tail and sting are carried highly arched over the body; in this mode of carriage differing from *Euscorpium* which keeps its body low and flat and drags the tail behind with only the very top bent. The *Androctonus* only fed at dusk, and then seizing its prey by the left chelae, archedly swung its tail over its head and pierced its victim with its sting, afterwards inserting its short chelicerae and sucking in the nutriment of its victim. The so-called combs or pectiniform appendages ordinarily do not appear to be sensitive, they may possibly become more so during the breeding season. As to the old story of the suicide of the scorpion when surrounded by a ring of fire, this statement is to be partially explained by an individual accidentally lacerating itself by the sting when driven to extremities. The *Euscorpium* observed occasionally fought furiously with each other and then used their chelae but never the sting. — A paper was read »On a new genus of Collembola (*Sinella*) allied to *Degeeria* Nicolet«, by Mr. George Brook. It differs from *Degeeria* in having 4 eyes not 16, in the absence of the long abdominal hairs, and in the different construction of the claws and mucrones. *S. curioseta* is a new species and on which the genus *Sinella* is founded; examples bred and were watched through their immature stages onwards. — Mr. R. McLachlan read a communication »On a Marine Caddis Fly (*Philaniscus* Walker = *Anomalostoma* Brewer) from New Zealand«. Material for examination of this curious discovery was sent the author by Prof. Hutton of Canterbury, N. Z. The larvae etc. were obtained in rock pools between high and low water mark in Lyttleton Harbour. A small tubular cylindrical pupal case with attached fragments of a coralline, a larva somewhat damaged, and disconnected portions of others enabled the discrimination of the genus above mentioned to be made out. — Prof. P. M. Duncan gave the salient points of a paper »On the genus *Pleurechinus* L. Agass., its classificatory position and alliances«. After noting the diagnosis of *Pleurechinus* by L. Agassiz and the description of the species *P. bothryoides* of A. Agass. in the Revision of the Echini, the linking of it to the fossil forms from Gand described by D'Archiac and Haime was shown to be erroneous. The supposed affinities with *Opechinus* Desor, a genus of no value were considered and the minute anatomy of the test of *Pleurechinus* was shown to correspond closely with that of *Tennopleurus*. Placing the form (with A. Agassiz) as a subgenus of *Tennopleurus*, the distinctness of it from *Tennochinus* and from the nummulitic so-called *Tennopleuridae* of D'Archiac and Haime was proved. — Mr. J. Maule Campbell detailed some interesting observations »On a probable case of Parthenogenesis in the House Spider (*Tegenaria Guyonii*)«. He concluded by submitting that the fertility of one of the female spiders in question after a confinement of 11 months, during which time she twice moulted and afterwards laid eggs which

were duly hatched, can only be explained by one of the following alternatives: — 1) Either that she was impregnated previous to the casting of the two exuviae, i. e. in an early and therefore immature stage or: 2) Parthenogenesis occurs in the Araneida. Hitherto no instance of this latter (viz. virgin production) has been recorded in the true spiders Araneida, though Mégnin, Kramer, and Michael have shown that the females of some Acarini couple with the males prior to their final moult and that practically there are two stages of sexual maturity; moreover Beck and others have related cases of undoubted Parthenogenesis in the Acari. — A paper was read »On the Indication of the Sense of Smell in Actiniae«, by Walter H. Pollock with an addendum by G. J. Romanes. These authors record experiments whereby it appears probable that these lowly organized creatures are aware or evince recognition of the presence of food when placed near them. This sense is evidently of a diffused kind, and as suggested may be equivalent to an imperfect olfactory kind. — A description was given of a new Infusorian allied to *Pleuronema* and obtained in ponds near Hertford by J. W. Phillips. — Thereafter two papers were read viz.: — »On *Teredo utriculus* Gmelin, with remarks upon other Shipworms«, by Mr. Sylvanus Hanley; and P. XV. of »Contributions to the Mollusca of the Challenger Expedition«, by the Rev. R. Boog Watson, in this dealing with the Families Ranellaceae, Muricidae, Scaliariidae and Solariidae. With a few remarks from the President concluding the session, the meeting adjourned till the 2nd November. — J. Murie.

### 3. Notiz.

Durch Berufung des Herrn Dr. Strasser als Prosector nach Freiburg i./Br. wird die Stelle eines Assistenten an der Anatomie zu Breslau zum October d. J. erledigt. Einkommen etc. 1800 *M.* Meldungen approbirter Ärzte, welche zugleich Doctoren der Medicin und die Absicht haben, die academische Laufbahn einzuschlagen, nimmt entgegen

Prof. Dr. C. Hasse.

## IV. Personal-Notizen.

Paris, 5. Juillet. — Mr. le Dr. Viallanes, Préparateur à la faculté des Sciences de Paris est nommé Répétiteur à l'École pratique des Hautes-Études (Laboratoire de Zoologie anatomique) en remplacement de Mr. le Dr. Brocchi, démissionnaire.

7. Juillet. — Mr. le Dr. H. A. Robin, Préparateur-adjoint à la faculté des Sciences de Paris est nommé Préparateur en remplacement de Mr. le Dr. Viallanes.

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### Berichtigung.

In den Artikel: Bemerkungen zu Prof. Bütschli's »Gedanken über Leben und Tod« in Nr. 116 hat sich ein sinnentstellender Druckfehler eingeschlichen. Am Schluss, S. 380, Zeile 11 von oben, muss es heißen: »bei dem Bearbeiter der Protozoen für Bronn's Classen und Ordnungen«, statt: »bei dem Bearbeiten«.

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