

(ii.) Some of my arguments depend, as Prof. Blake points out, on the homology of the lamellæ in the pad of *Sepia* with the septa in the Belemnite-phragmocone. This homology is doubted by Prof. Blake, who now suggests that the lamellæ of the pad are homologous with the calcified membranes of the nacreous layer in the shell-wall of *Nautilus*. His arguments are three. He claims first that his observations on shell-structure do not countenance my view: my readers will decide whether Prof. Blake's description is valid evidence one way or the other. He states secondly that the lamellæ of *Sepia* "have no siphuncle, and they are not even perforated:" now each later-formed lamella is like an elliptical figure with the posterior part cut away by another broader ellipse; the earlier lamellæ are of more circular outline, but are similarly incised; if this incision represents the siphuncular space, then from this form to the form of the septa in *Belosepia* is a mere step; even in the Belemnite the siphuncle is so external as hardly to be surrounded by the septum. Lastly, he states that there is no trace of a "cap" or of a protoconch in *Sepia*: the explanation of this was given by Prof. Lankester in his "Observations on the Development of Cephalopoda" (Q. J. M. S. xv. p. 37) in 1875, and to the arguments of that authority no opposition has hitherto been offered.

The view taken by me as to the homologies of the Sepion was first put forward by Voltz (Mém. Soc. Hist. Nat. de Strassbourg, i. p. 1) in 1830; I am not aware that his arguments have ever been refuted; the view is adopted by Prof. Gegenbaur in his well-known text-book; it has been confirmed by recent observations, and, though I arrived at it independently from a study of the facts, I had no wish to retell an old tale.

I accept with gratitude the support and welcome of Prof. Blake, and only regret that his article should necessitate a reply so full of controversy. For this I apologize to the readers of the 'Annals,' but would remind them of the Rabbinical proverb, "By the contention of students science is advanced."

LIX.—*Descriptions of two new Species of Indian Soricidæ.*

By G. E. DOBSON, M.A., F.R.S.

As Mr. W. T. Blanford is about to print his work on the mammals of British India, and is anxious to include every known species from that region, he has requested me

to publish diagnoses of the following species, of which full descriptions are to be found in the manuscript of the still unpublished part iii. of my 'Monograph of the Insectivora.'

The following two species of *Crocidura* belong to the so-called subgenus *Pachyura*, having the dental formula

$$\frac{\text{nc. } 3-3, \text{ pm. } 3-3, \text{ m. } 3-3}{\text{mand. } 6-6} = 30 \text{ teeth.}$$

Crocidura leucogenys, sp. n.

Somewhat larger than *C. aranea*. The ears are short and clothed with a few short whitish hairs only; the tail is thick and fusiform, and clothed as in *C. murina*, numerous long, fine grey hairs arising out of the shorter fur; the feet compared with the size of the body are small and slender, thinly clothed with short greyish-brown hairs; a very large lateral gland, like that in *C. murina*, is found in the usual position.

The fur is short throughout; above light cinnamon-brown, with a reddish tinge intermixed with grey, the basal half of the hairs bluish; the sides of the head between the angles of the mouth and the ears, the chin, and part of the chest are dirty white, the remainder of the ventral surface greyish; the upper surface and sides of the tail are brown, the lower surface grey.

The skull and teeth closely resemble those of *C. murina* on a much reduced scale; they also resemble those of *C. Stoliczkanæ*, Anderson; but skulls of quite immature specimens of the latter species, although much smaller, have longer upper tooth-rows.

Length (of an adult male preserved in alcohol): head and body 75 millim., tail 47, ear 8, elbow to end of middle digit (without claw) 17, manus 7, pes 12; skull, occipital crest to front edge of premaxillary bone 19, greatest width of skull 9, length of upper tooth-row 7, length of lower tooth-row 8, length of mandible from condyle to tip of anterior tooth $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Hab. India (*Ajmir*).

Type an adult male collected by Sir O. B. St. John.

Crocidura Dayi, sp. n.

Smaller than *C. rubicunda*, but with a longer tail and nearly as large a foot. Fur and integument dark brown throughout, the ventral surface slightly paler, the basal three fourths of the fur on both surfaces dark bluish grey. Tail long and clothed with very short hairs; in the single speci-

men there are scarcely any long fine hairs to be seen; feet slender and similarly thinly clothed. No trace of a lateral gland.

The skull differs conspicuously from that of *C. rubicunda* in its smaller size. The teeth differ in the shape of the first upper incisor as well as in the large size of the penultimate premolar. The first upper incisor has a large basal process provided with an internal basal cusp, the anterior principal cusp of this tooth is short and does not equal that of the second incisor in vertical extent; the third incisor is smaller and shorter than the anterior maxillary tooth; the small penultimate premolar is much larger than usual in the genus, being about three fourths the size of the third incisor in cross section at the base, and its cusp slightly exceeds in vertical extent the anterior basal cusp of the last premolar; the anterior mandibular tooth has two notches.

Length (of a skin): head and body 74 millim., tail 60, pes $15\frac{1}{2}$; skull, occipital crest to front edge of premaxillary bone $17\frac{1}{2}$, greatest width of skull 9, length of upper tooth-row 9, length of lower tooth-row $8\frac{1}{2}$, length of mandible from condyle to tip of anterior tooth 12.

Hab. Madras Presidency, India (exact locality unknown).

Collected and presented to the British Museum (Natural History) by Dep. Surgeon-General F. Day, C.I.E.

LX.—*Contribution to our Knowledge of the Fishes of the Yangtze-Kiang.* By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, Keeper of the Zoological Department, British Museum.

SINCE I had the pleasure of reporting on a collection of Reptiles* made by Mr. A. E. Pratt at Kiu-Kiang, on the Yangtze River, he has proceeded further inland, to Ichang, a distance of 1000 miles from the mouth of the river. He was fortunate enough to obtain there a specimen of the porpoise, the existence of which had been mentioned by several travellers (Blakiston, A. J. Little), and of which I especially desired

* See *antè*, p. 165. I regret not to be able to make use of the notes on Chinese fishes in 'La Pisciculture et la Pêche en Chine par P. Dabry de Thiersant,' as the figures as well as the accompanying notes are the work of persons not conversant with the rudiments of descriptive ichthyology, and as likely to lead to misconceptions as to assist in the determination of the species.



Dobson, G. E. 1888. "LIX.—Descriptions of two new species of Indian Soricidæ." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 1, 427–429. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222938809460762>.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222938809460762>

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