

Elseya latisternon (Cat. Shield Rept. Suppl. p. 77).

There are two specimens in Mr. Krefft's collection received from Burnett's River. They differ from the specimens in the British Museum, which I previously described, in the underside being dark-coloured and black-dotted; and the neck of this species is spinous on the upper surface, like *Euchlemys spinosa*, but is known from it by not having any nuchal shield.

Note on Comephorus baicalensis. By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S.

The Trustees of the British Museum have lately purchased a collection of fishes from Lake Baikal, and among them four specimens of *Comephorus baicalensis*; another example has been presented by Prof. Peters. Valenciennes denies the presence of pyloric appendages (xii. p. 333); however, I find five, each from 4 to 7 millims. long. With regard to the systematic position of the fish, I still think that it should be placed among the Acanthopterygians, in the division of the *Cotto-scombriformes* (see the "Systematic Synopsis of the Families of Acanthopterygians," Catal. iii. Appendix). In some respects it resembles a Gadoid fish; but there are true spines in the first dorsal fin: the air-bladder and, consequently, a pneumatic duct are absent.

On the Embryo of Macropus major.

By H. A. PAGENSTECHER.

In the first place it may be stated, with regard to the generative organs, that Owen is perfectly right in saying that in *Macropus major* no communication at all exists between the median vaginal cæcum and the portion designated by him as the vestibule, whilst, on the contrary, *Halmaturus ruficollis* (*Bennetti*) in our collection shows a complete open communication. The vaginal vestibule contained a great quantity of thrown-off epithelium, which was accumulated in the very narrow canals of the lateral paired vaginae, the *uterus anfractuosus* of authors; the median cæcum, which had flabby walls, contained a very small quantity of a turbid fluid.

The left tube contained an embryo, although no yellow body was to be recognized in the ovary. The very vascular decidua separated pretty readily from the walls of the tube, except a few stronger vascular adhesions. The chorion had no connexion at all with the decidua, so that it slipped quite easily out of the envelope. The embryo was exactly of the size and maturity of the specimen of which Owen says that it was born thirty-eight days after copulation, and which he has figured. It was enveloped in the amnios. The length, from the snout to the extremity of the tail, was about 4 centimetres.

The amniotic peduncle contained five spiral convolutions of the intestine. With its inner surface were connected the membranes and vessels of a vesicle over 1.5 centimetre in diameter, which projected from the peduncle and was itself supported on a peduncle



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