

to the family Tethyadæ, which, like the *Holtenia*, are free Sponges, only attached by numerous long filiform anchoring-spicules which arise from the hinder part of the body. He calls it *Tetella polyura*; but it has little in common with the other *Tetellæ*, and I think it should be distinguished by the name of *Polyurella Schmidtii*.

I am in hopes that, when the results of the dredging on the coast of Portugal are distributed, the specimen which you now exhibit will become the property of the Derby Museum; but I cannot at present assure you of the donation.

I am, my dear Moore,

Yours very sincerely,

J. E. GRAY.

British Museum, Sept. 10, 1870.

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XXVIII.—*Description of a new Species of Pheasant from the Province of Sechuen, China.* By D. G. ELLIOT, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

*Phasianus elegans.*

*Mas.* Capite colloque viridibus, sub certa luce cyaneo nitentibus; dorso rufo, plumis viridi terminatis; scapularibus dorso concoloribus (parte mediana nigra), albo transfasciatis; uropygio virescenti-cinereo, plumis late viridi terminatis, nigro et albo transfasciatis; plumarum omnium parte basali alba: pectore superiore abdomineque latissime viridibus; hypochondriis et pectoris lateribus castaneis, plumis omnibus saturate cyaneo terminatis: tectricibus supracaudalibus læte aurantiacis, viridi-cinereo lavatis: tectricibus subcaudalibus brunnescenti-nigris, rubro terminatis: cauda saturate castanea, late nigro transfasciata: pedibus plumbeis, cano pallide tinctis: plaga orbitali scarlatina; macula pone oculos viridi.

Head and neck green, with bluish reflections; back red, each feather tipped with green. Scapulars, like the back, with black centres crossed with diagonal white bars. Rump greenish grey, with a broad mark of emerald-green near the tip, succeeded by a narrower one of black, this followed by an irregular one of white; base of feathers blackish. Upper part of breast and abdomen rich emerald-green. Flanks and sides of breast chestnut-red, each feather tipped with dark blue, the feathers becoming rich purple as they approach the centre of the breast, and those next to the abdomen have their inner webs green. Upper tail-coverts bright orange-red, with the greenish grey of the rump-feathers showing through in the centre. Under tail-coverts brownish black, tipped with red. Tail deep chestnut-red, crossed with broad bars of black.



Legs and feet lead-colour inclining to flesh-colour. Bare skin of face scarlet, with a patch of green feathers under and behind the eye.

Two living examples of this new species were lately sent to England among a number of other pheasants of various species from the province of Sechuen in China, somewhere near its south-western border, and deposited in the gardens of the Zoological Society, in Regent's Park. It is to the exertions of Mr. Stone, who has succeeded in bringing to Europe many of the rarer species of this family, that we are indebted for the opportunity of being able to describe this new form. The specimens are both males, and, although now moulting, are in very good condition, but very wild, and endeavour to hide from all who approach their inclosure.

In its geographical distribution this new species appears to be intermediate between the *P. decollatus*, lately described by Mr. Swinhoe, from eastern Sechuen, and the *P. Sladeni*, from Yunan, mentioned in the manuscript notes of Mr. Anderson, the present curator of the Calcutta Museum. The *P. elegans* might be supposed, from its appearance, to be a hybrid between *P. versicolor* and *P. colchicus*; but, unfortunately for such an hypothesis, neither of these species is found anywhere near the locality inhabited by the present one, and consequently a hybrid between them in Sechuen is simply impossible. The *P. elegans* differs from all other pheasants with which I am acquainted, in its red mantle bordered with green on the tip of each feather, in its greenish-grey rump, and in the green breast restricted almost to a median line. These are the prominent differences; but there are various minor ones also, while the general distribution of the colours of its plumage is very different from that of all other members of this family.

This bird furnishes one of the missing links (mentioned in my communication to the Zoological Society lately published upon some other new pheasants) forming the chain of descent from *P. Shawii* through the various other forms now known to us. But very few more are required to enable us to trace the line of descent without any interruption. It is to be hoped that, as the exact locality of the *P. elegans* is well known, we may be able to procure females and have them transmitted to Europe, and thus preserve and perpetuate the species. Although the female is not known to us, I cannot doubt that it would resemble in general appearance the hen of *P. colchicus*, from which also the female of *versicolor* only differs in having a greenish shade, observable in certain lights, upon its plumage. In size the present species is about equal to the ordi-



nary *colchicus*. I have not been able to give measurements, as they are very difficult to obtain from live birds not at all tame. The voice of *P. elegans* is harsh and guttural, very different from that of any of its relatives.

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XXIX.—*Some Facts towards a Life-History of Rhipiphorus paradoxus*. By T. ALGERNON CHAPMAN, M.D., Hereford.

[Plate XVI.]

BEFORE recording my own observations on *Rhipiphorus*, I desire to congratulate Mr. Murray on his having confirmed the observations of the late Mr. Stone, and on his having retracted all the doubts that he had cast on the credibility of the history of *Rhipiphorus* as set forth by that observer.

I am, however, much astonished when he further owns that the inhabitants of his doubly tenanted cells of last year were not the pupæ of *Rhipiphorus* as he described them\*, but the larvæ; and doubtless also their fellow inhabitants, described by him as injured wasp-pupæ, were in reality the partially devoured wasp-larvæ. Now, had he told us that these were larvæ, and not pupæ, there had been no room for any difficulty such as was raised by Mr. Murray. Nay, the very basis of his attack on Mr. Stone would have been but a confirmation of the record of that observer, had Mr. Murray himself not committed such a singular error of observation. There was another instance of the confusion of the terms larva and pupa in Mr. Murray's first paper, which I did not previously refer to, as I had supposed it to be merely a *lapsus calami*, and which Mr. Murray accepted as such, when it was suggested to be so by Mr. Smith. But it now appears that Mr. Murray did both in thought and in observation, as well as on paper, confuse larvæ and pupæ together.

Passing by his observation of the egg of *Rhipiphorus*, I would merely object to such extraordinary ideas of development as Mr. Murray puts forth when he describes the supposed egg as struggling into life at the head, still egg at the base. In his further statement that the egg-shell becomes the first skin of the larva, I believe that he might quote the authority of Newport in the case of the larva of *Meloë*; but in this in-

\* Mr. Murray's words are,—“In three instances I found two pupæ in the same cell, a wasp-pupa and a *Rhipiphorus*-pupa—a fact which seems to me to be conclusive against the idea of the one feeding on the other. They must have been hatched in the same cell, bred lovingly as larvæ in the same cell, and undergone their metamorphoses in the same cell.” (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. Nov. 1869, p. 349.)





Elliot, Daniel Giraud. 1870. "XXVIII.—Description of a new species of pheasant from the Province of Sechuen, China." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 6, 312–314.

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