

gas evolved was passed through a solution of ammonia chloride of copper, but not a trace of sulphur could be detected in this manner.

In the 5th supplement to Rammelsberg's *Handwörterbuch der Chemischen Mineralogie*, this meteoric iron is mentioned as passive, experiments having been made by Prof. Wöhler; but the piece belonging to Mr. Vaux is evidently active, throwing down metallic copper from a neutral solution of its sulphate. This experiment was repeated with great care with confirmatory results.

No. 1 was dissolved in hydrochloric acid, and a slight precipitate was obtained by hydrosulphuric acid, which, on a careful examination before the blow-pipe, was found to be copper with a trace of tin.

Iron,	-	-	-	-	-	-	90.72 per cent.
Nickel,	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.49 "
Cobalt,	-	-	-	-	-	-	.44 "
Schreibersite, chromic iron, &c.,	-	-	-	-	-	-	.38 "
Silicon,	-	-	-	-	-	-	.25 "
Phosphorus,	-	-	-	-	-	-	.18 "

The phosphorus was estimated in a separate portion, which was first oxidized by nitric acid and fused in a platinum crucible with carbonate of soda.

No. 2 was dissolved in nitric acid. It gave—

Iron,	-	-	-	-	-	-	90.37 per cent.
Nickel,	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.79 "
Insoluble residue,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.91 "

Description of two new species of Urodeles, from Georgia.

By EDWARD HALLOWELL, M.D.

Sub-Fam. BOLITOGLOSSIDÆ.

PSEUDOTRITON MARGINATUS, nob.

Char. Head small, depressed, rounded in front; eyes lateral, oblique, not prominent, looking upward and outward; gape of the mouth extending a short distance behind the posterior commissure of the eye; maxillary teeth small, internal nares small and circular; a transverse row of vomerine teeth on each side passing behind the internal nares, continuous with several rows of longitudinal palatine teeth diverging posteriorly, so as to leave a wide interspace in the shape of the letter V reversed; tongue small, circular, bolitoglossal, free at the edges, and supported upon a small central pedicel; body slender, cylindrical; extremities slender; toes 4—5; tail somewhat compressed, longer than body.

Color. Dark ash color above, almost black, shaded obscurely with yellow; a lateral band of dusky white margined with black on each side near the abdomen, extending from the anterior to the posterior extremities; under parts dusky white, very minutely spotted or blotched with black.

Dimensions. Length of head 3 lines; greatest breadth 2 lines; length of neck and body to vent 1 inch 4 lines, (Fr. ;) length of tail 1 inch 4 lines. Total length 2 inches 11 lines.

Habitat. Liberty County, Georgia. One specimen in Mus. Acad. Nat. Sc., presented by Major Le Conte.

PSEUDOTRITON FLAVISSIMUS, nob.

Char. Head of moderate size, rounded above; snout truncate; eyes rather prominent, latero-superior, oblique, looking upward and outward; tongue small, circular, mushroom-shaped, supported upon a central pedicel, the edges free; internal nares rather small, ovoid or subcircular in shape; maxillary teeth minute, sharp-pointed, the points directed backward; vomerine and palatine teeth as in marginatus; body more robust than in the former species, more or less compressed upon the sides; extremities slender; tail compressed, of nearly same length as body, (about a line longer.)

Color. Yellow above, inclining to brown, with very numerous small black spots; under parts of a brighter yellow throughout, without spots.

Dimensions. Length of head 4 lines; greatest breadth 3 lines; length of neck and body 1 inch $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines, (Fr. ;) of tail 1 inch 5 lines; total length 3 inches 2 lines.

Habitat. With the preceding in Georgia. One specimen in Mus. Acad. Nat. Sc., presented by Major Le Conte, U. S. A.

Contributions to the Ichthyology of the Western Coast of the United States, from specimens in the museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

By CHARLES GIRARD, M. D.

Two years have scarcely elapsed since I communicated to the Academy descriptions of various fishes collected upon different points of the Pacific coast of North America. During that period the indefatigable researches of several officers of the U. S. Army, and naturalists attached to the surveys made under orders from the General Government, have brought to light many new and interesting members of that class of animals, and of which I propose now to give a brief account, extracted from final Reports, made to the officers in charge of these surveys.

It has also been deemed advisable to mention such changes as have been made in the generic position of several species previously described, either by me or others, in order to give a more correct idea of the Reports just alluded to.

It will be remembered that while I was engaged in those investigations of our Western fishes, two naturalists, Drs. W. O. Ayers and W. P. Gibbons, both residents of San Francisco, Cal., had (without any knowledge of what I was doing,) described a certain number of species, some of which we already know have proved identical with my own. The law of priority in their publication will decide upon the names to be finally adopted in the nomenclature. So far I have been unwilling to settle upon any identifications without the specimens to go by, in order to avoid confusion as well as complicate the synonymy. Drs. Ayres and Gibbons, both, have shown an earnest desire to furnish me with authentic specimens of the species which they have described, and I am happy to say that from the former I have been favored by a good many up to this day, as will be seen further on.

For reference to the species described by Prof. Agassiz, some of which have appeared in my papers, it is but just to say that such identifications as were attempted by me, were made from the accounts published at that time. As far as genera are concerned I feel confident that no error was committed; in regard to the species I entertain certain doubts which can not be removed by the documents at our command. I have sought to do justice to the subject from the very beginning, and rather than introduce any changes in their present nomenclature I send them before the world as they now stand.

With the above preliminaries I proceed into the subject.

The species formerly described by me under the genus *Labrax* were found, upon further examination, to constitute a genus by itself, the relationship of which being more those of *Serranus* than of *Labrax*, and it is in the vicinity of the former that it ought to be placed in the ichthyic method. From *Serranus* it may be distinguished by the outline of the spinous dorsal fin, and the relative development of the canine teeth, which are so small as to have suggested the idea that the species belonged to *Labrax*.

The new genus we will henceforth call

PARALABRAX,

and characterise as follow: "General physiognomy that of *Labrax*, but the first dorsal fin is contiguous to the second as in *Serranus*. The profil of the body is subfusiform the caudal fin subtruncated or slightly emarginated posteriorly.



Hallowell, Edward. 1856. "Descriptions of two new species of urodeles, from Georgia." *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 8, 130–131.

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