Named in compliment to W. H. Benson, Esq., who has contributed so much to our knowledge of Indian land-shells.

WILKINSONÆA MOUSSONIANA, Chitty.

Hab. Yallahs Hill.

Form, subdiscoidal. *Colour*, white, semitransparent. *Sculpture*, 22 lines, four of which are very slightly stronger than the rest, lowest most strong and prominent; on the upper whorls, 7. *Spire*, slightly elevated, with convex outlines. *Whorls*, $3\frac{1}{2}$, slightly rounded, with a light suture. *Aperture*, slightly expanded and depressed below, more than a semicircle. *Labrum*, thickened and reflected, double above, very slightly scalloped by the four stronger carinæ, or rather the labrum is produced in straight lines to meet each stronger carina, forming three straight lines scarcely pectinated, in octagonal shape, moderately and roundly produced above from the body-whorl. *Labium*, rather curved, below the plane of the labrum above, moderately detached from the body-whorl. *Umbilicus*, deep. *Labral lamella*, sharply, finely and uniformly produced. *Operculum*, slightly concave, smooth, with ? two strong rounded carinæ vertically crossing the hollow.

Height 0.035, greatest breadth 0.058, least breadth 0.042.

Named in compliment to Prof. A. H. Mousson of Zurich, Switzerland.

[To be continued.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

On some Eggs of Insects employed as Human Food, and giving rise to the formation of Oolites in Lacustrine Limestones in Mexico.

By M. VIRLET D'Aoust.

THE author states that the bottom of the lakes of Chalco and Tezcuco, which border the city of Mexico, consists of a calcareous mud, of a whitish-grey colour, the formation of which is still in progress, as indicated by the remains of human industry which occur in it. Whenever he observed these calcareous deposits uncovered by water, he was struck with finding that they constituted oolites exactly identical in appearance, and in the form and size of the grains, with those of the Jurassic system. On mentioning this circumstance to Mr. J. C. Bowring, director of the salt-works of Tezcuco, in whose trenches the oolitic structure was clearly exhibited, he stated that these oolites were formed by the eggs of insects, which are subsequently incrustated by the calcareous concretions constantly deposited by the waters of the lake.

It appears, from the further statements of the author, that, especially in October, the lake is haunted by millions of small flies, which after dancing in the air, plunge down into the shallower parts of the water to a depth of several feet, and deposit their eggs at the bottom. The eggs of these insects are called *Haotle* (Haoutle) by the Mexican Indians, who collect them in great numbers, and with whom they appear to be a favourite article of food. They are prepared in various ways, but are usually made into cakes, which are eaten with a sauce flavoured with chillies.

To collect the eggs, the Indians prepare bundles of rushes, which they place vertically in the lake, at some distance from the shore. In about a fortnight, every rush in these bundles is completely covered with eggs; the bundles are then drawn out and dried in the sun, upon a cloth, for not more than an hour, when the eggs are easily detached. The bundles of rushes are then placed in the water again for another crop.—*Comptes Rendus*, Nov. 23, 1857, p. 865.

On a new Lagomys and a new Mustela inhabiting the North Region of Sikhim and the proximate parts of Tibet. By B. H. HODGSON, Esq., B.C.S.

MUSTELA TÉMON, nob. *Témon of the Tibetans.*

This species is $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long from snout to vent, and the tail is $6\frac{1}{2}$ more. Its fur is short, soft and straight, being scarcely longer on the tail than on the body. The colour is, above and laterally, with the entire tail, brunnescent fawn; below, entirely pale pure yellow, save the head and margin of the upper lip, which, as well as the limbs, are canescent; the last, however, with more or less of a brownish tint to the front or externally. The tail is $\frac{2}{3}$ rds the length of the animal. The fur is $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch long and very fine. The dimensions are as follows:—

	inches.
Snout to vent	$9\frac{1}{2}$
Head	2
Tail and hair	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Tail, less hair	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Ears	$0\frac{3}{4}$
Palma and nails	$1\frac{1}{8}$
Planta and nails	$1\frac{1}{2}$

LAGOMYS CURZONIÆ, nob. *Abra of the Tibetans.*

My specimens were procured in the district of Chumbi. They are three in number, and in fine preservation and high state of fur. They are quite alike in size and colour, and demonstrably mature from the state of the teeth. They measure $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches from snout to vent, and are of a murine fulvous colour, palling and canescent below and on the extremities. The fur is exceedingly soft, full, and smooth, of two sorts, or woolly and hairy, but both of silken delicacy; internally dark slaty blue, externally fawn colour, more or less obscured and darkened by the internal colour. The dimensions are as follows:—

	inches.
Snout to vent	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Head	$1\frac{3}{4}$
Ears	$0\frac{3}{4}$
Snout to eye	$0\frac{1}{8}$
Eye to ear	1
Palma and nails	$1\frac{1}{8}$
Planta and nails	$1\frac{1}{4}$

This beautiful little animal is appropriately dedicated to the Hon. Mrs. Curzon.—*Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, No. 3, 1857.

Darjiling, April, 1857.

Virlet d'Aoust, Pierre Théodore. 1858. "On some eggs of insects employed as human food, and giving rise to the formation of oolites in lacustrine limestones in Mexico." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 1, 79–80.

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