

found another sign by which to distinguish the true medicinal leech from the horse-leech, viz.: the former, in the spirit, changes his natural color little or not at all, while the skin of the horse-leech becomes grey, like ash.

Melbourne, July 3rd, 1858.

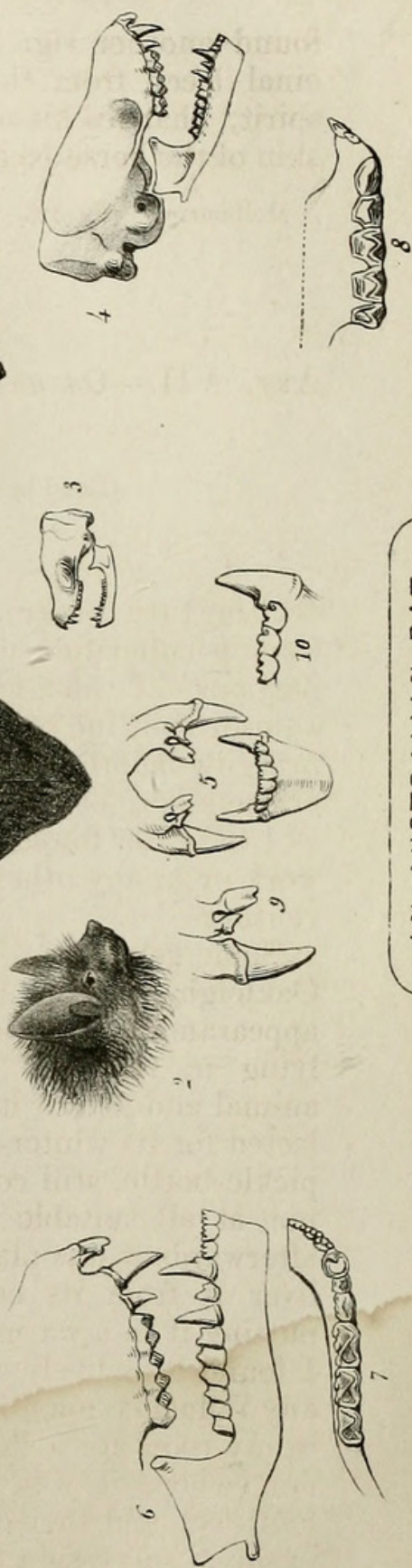
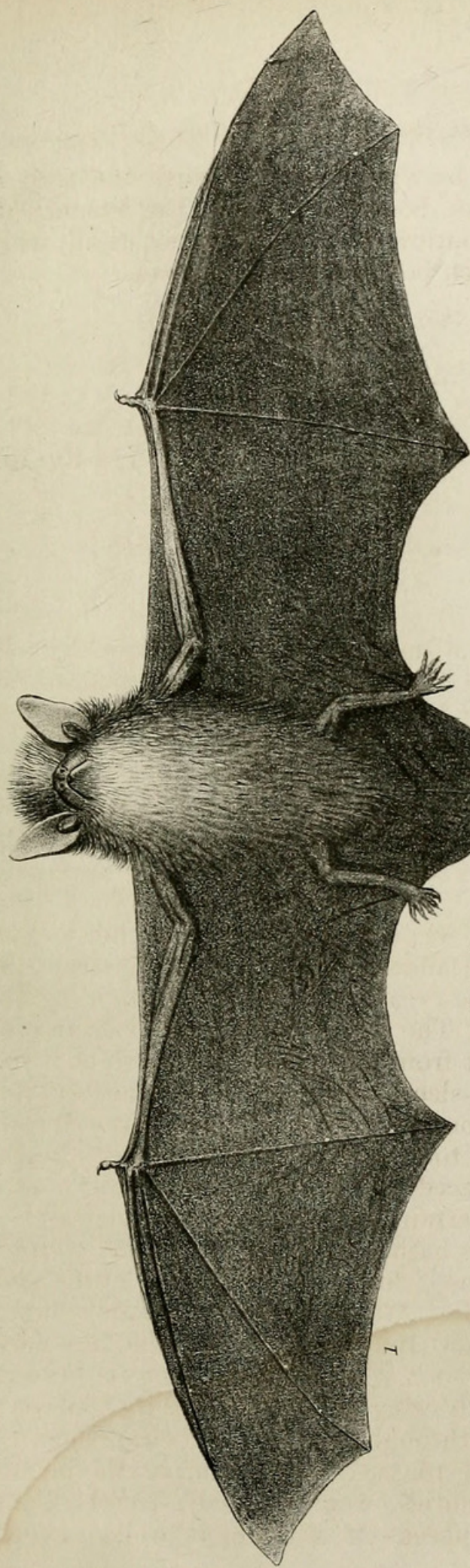
ART. VII.—*On an Australian Bat.* No. I. By LUDWIG BECKER, Esq.

[Read before the Institute, July 28th, 1858.]

[With a Plate.]

ON the 14th of June last, I received a bat, which showed some peculiarities in habit as well as in its anatomical proportions. I thought it worth while to figure it, and to make an exact outline of the skull and teeth. I know that I risk bringing before you to-night an animal perhaps already known to some here or "at home," but it was and is new to me, and as I have not found it figured or described, either in Gould's work or in any other work accessible to me, I have made the venture.

Some gentlemen, while sitting round a chimney fire, at Oakleigh, near the Dandenong Ranges, were struck by the appearance of a little creature, emerging from a log of wood lying in the fire. The smoke and heat had awaked the animal and driven it from the resting place, which it had selected for its winter-sleep. It was caught and secured in a pickle-bottle, still containing some fluids and other matters not at all suitable to a flitter-mouse's palate. Some days afterwards it was placed in my hands, and I was glad to deliver it from its certainly unpleasant confinement. After putting it in a warm bath, and after drying and warming it, I found it as lively as if fire and pickles had never exercised any influence upon it. When thrown in the air it flew about in my room for a short time, and then settled in a dark corner, where it was soon very busy combing its fur with the hind-feet, and then drawing them, or rather the nails on them, in quick succession through its mouth, to clean them. With the lips, teeth, and tongue, the wings, or the membranes between the extremities, were cleaned, stretched, and arranged. When replaced on a table, it walked about with



AN AUSTRALIAN BAT.



Becker, Ludwig. 1859. "On an Australian bat." *Transactions of the Philosophical Institute of Victoria* 3, 38–40.

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