

reported to the meeting held on the 13th of April, I have intelligence of the existence of a third and much larger species than either of them.

The bird I am now about to describe has just arrived from New Zealand by way of Sydney, but unaccompanied by any information as to the locality in which it was procured, or any particulars of its habits and economy.

It appears to be fully adult, and is about the same size as the *Apteryx Australis*, from which it is rendered conspicuously different by the irregular transverse barring of the entire plumage, which, with its extreme density and hair-like appearance, more closely resembles the covering of a mammal than that of a bird; it also differs in having a shorter, more slender, and more curved bill, and in the structure of the feathers, which are much broader throughout, especially at the tip, and of a loose, decomposed, and hair-like texture. I propose to characterise this new species under the name of *Apteryx Owenii*, feeling assured that it can only be considered as a just compliment to Professor Owen, who has so ably investigated the group to which I believe it pertains.

APTERYX OWENII. *Ap. corpus superius fusco et fulvo transversim radiatum; plumis singulis, ad basim argenteo-fuscis, in medio saturatius fuscis, deinde fasciâ semilunari transversâ fulvâ, cui macula succedit informis nigra, ad apicem fulvis. Corpus inferius superiore pallidius, pluma enim quæque inferioris corporis tribus radiis fulvis, superioris tantum duobus ornatur; fulvis quoque color inferiore longius quam superiore corpore in apicibus plumarum extendit.*

Face, head, and neck dull yellowish brown; throat somewhat paler; all the upper surface transversely rayed with blackish brown and fulvous; each individual feather being silvery brown at the base, darker brown in the middle, then crossed by a lunate mark of fulvous, to which succeeds an irregular mark of black, and terminated with fulvous; under surface paler than the upper, caused by each feather being crossed by three rays of fulvous instead of two, and more largely tipped with that colour; the feathers of the thighs resemble those of the back; bill dull yellowish horn-colour; feet and claws fleshy-brown.

Total length from the tip of the bill to the extremity of the body, 18 inches; bill, from the gape to the tip,  $3\frac{5}{8}$ ; bill,  $\frac{7}{8}$  broad at the gape; tarsi,  $2\frac{1}{4}$ ; middle toe and nail,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Hab.* New Zealand.

*Remark.*—In this species the wing is even more rudimentary than in the *Apteryx Australis*.

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ON THE SPECIES OF THE GENUS PLACENTA OF RETZIUS.

BY J. E. GRAY, ESQ., F.R.S. ETC. ETC.

[*Pro. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 11th July, 1848.]

LAMARCK describes three species of this genus, depending on the general outline and the waved or flat form of the shell, characters



which are liable to considerable variations, as may be found on the mere inspection of any large number of specimens.

I have observed that the hinge forms a more permanent character, and affords the means of dividing the species into two sections, and furnishes characters which separate them from each other. In both subgenera the right valve is the flattest, and bears the ridges of the hinge.

Sect. I. *Placuna*, sp. Lamk. = *Ephippium*, Chemn.; *Placenta* B, Schum. Shell purplish, subopake; hinge-ridges rapidly diverging from one another at about the angle of 45 degrees. Muscular scar under the centre of the hinge. The ridges of nearly equal length.

1. *Placenta Sella*.—Shell flexuous, outline rather rhombic, being straight in front and rather notched behind; the ridges of the hinge not longer than they are separate from each other at the base.

*Anomia Sella*, Gmelin, S.N. 3345, 1788.

*Placuna Sella*, Lamk. Hist. N. 2.

*Ephippium anglicanum maximum*, Chemn. C. viii. t. 79, f. 714. cop. E.M. t. 174. f. 1.

*Placenta Ephippium*, Retz. 1788.

Inhab. China, India.

B. Shell nearly flat, subquadrangular.

Inhab. Australia. Brit. Mus.

2. *Placenta papyracea*; *Placuna papyracea*, Lamk. Hist. N. 2 = *Ephippium parvum*, Chemn. Conch. viii. t. 79. f. 719. cop. E. M. t. 174. f. 2.

3. *Placenta Lincolnii*.—Shell flat, outline suborbicular, rounder before and behind; ridges of the hinge elongate, longer than they are separate from each other at the base.

Inhab. Australia; Mr. W. Davison. British Museum.

I wish to name this species after my excellent friend Mr. Abraham Lincoln, who kindly presented me with the specimen here described, and who is well known for his fondness for conchology, and the liberality with which he allows persons to use his extensive collection.

Sect. II. *Placenta*; *Placenta*, Schum. Shell semi-transparent, flat, outline suborbicular; ridges of the hinge very gradually diverging from each other, the hinder ridge much the longest. Muscular scar rather in front of the middle of the hinge.

1. *Placenta orbicularis*, Retz.; *Placuna placenta*, Lamk. Hist. N. 3; *Anomia placenta*, Linn. S.N. 1154; Chemn. Conch. viii. t. 79. f. 176. cop. E. M. t. 173. f. 2.

Shell colourless, semi-transparent; when young, pale purplish.

Inhab. China. N.W. Coast of Australia; *Earl of Derby*. Port Essington.

The shells vary a little in the inequality of the hinge-ridges, but the hinder is always the longest.

I may remark that Chemnitz gives the best character for the species, and has observed the character furnished by the hinge, which has been overlooked by Lamarck, and, as far as I am aware, by all recent authors.





Gray, John Edward. 1850. "On species of the genus Placenta, in Retzius."  
*Papers and proceedings of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land* 1(2), 184–185.

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