any mention of them. These brushes occurred in numerous species belonging to the following genera:—*Metalleutica*, *Chæradodis*, *Humbertiella*, *Micromantis*, *Pseudomantis*, *Archimantis*, *Mesopteryx*, *Chasmatomantis*, *Euchomena*, *Gonyypeta*, *Hierodula*, *Mantis*, *Tenodera*, *Iris*, *Phespis*, *Fischeria*, *Schizocephala*, *Hymenopus*, *Creobrota*, *Paroxyphilus*, *Popa*, *Deroplatys*, *Oxyphilus*, *Phyllocrania*, *Ceratomantis*, *Hestias*, *Gongylus*, *Empusa*, *Blepharis*, &c., and probably universally throughout the whole group, although he had examined none of the American species, which, however, were hardly likely to prove an exception to the rule.—*Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, June 1876.

On the Geographical Distribution of Schizocephala, a Genus of Mantidæ. By J. WOOD-MASON, Esq.

The author states that, so far from being a peculiarly African form, as it is considered to be by M. de Saussure in his recent monograph of the family, the remarkable genus *Schizocephala* is one of the most widely distributed, not only of Mantidæ but of insects, in India—and, in support of his statement, gives a long list of localities from which he has received either perfect or immature examples of the (?) single species *S. bicornis*, viz. the Karakpur hills in Behar, Devapur and Chánda in the Central Provinces, Kaladgi in the Bombay presidency, Kachh, Ceylon, Murshidabad and Calcutta in Bengal, Pegu, &c., and quotes the old entomologist Stoll, who describes and figures examples from Tranquebar and China, and Professor Westwood's 'Arcana Entomologica,' in which it is referred to as an Asiatic form. Finally, he concludes either that the locality given by M. de Saussure is erroneous, or that that author's specimens, if really from South Africa, represent a second species of the genus.—*Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, June 1876.

On the Capture of Rattlesnakes, and on the Association of these Serpents with a small Owl and a little Marmot. By M. A. TRÉCUL.

During my journey in North America, I traversed in 1848 a region situated to the west of Arkansas, where rattlesnakes are very common. I took several of them, which I sent to the museum; the following year I also sent some from Texas. Having remarked that, after making themselves heard, they had little disposition to fly at persons a little way from them, I conceived the idea of taking them in the following manner. I attached a thread to the end of the ramrod of my gun, and made a slip-knot at its free extremity: I then went to the snake, which I had heard or which had been pointed out to me by the Osages with whom I travelled; I excited it; and when it raised itself up, threatening and hissing, I passed my running knot round its neck and pulled it up. The snake did not then make any movement or any effort to disengage itself, but remained straight as a stick. It was easy to kill it. Those which I sent to the Natural-History Museum at Paris were taken in this way, which other travellers may find useful.

As I am speaking about rattlesnakes, I ask the permission of the Academy to refer to a supposed society that travellers in the prairies have sometimes mentioned. It is said to be composed of three very dissimilar animals—a sort of small marmot (*Arctomys* or *Cynomys ludoviciana*), an owl (*Athene cunicularia*), and a rattlesnake (*Crotalus confluentus*, Say).

I had the opportunity of visiting the seat of this supposed association. I met with it in the neighbourhood of the Salt River, which is one of the affluents on the right bank of the Arkansas. Not far from the *Grande Saline*, as the Indians call it, I saw two villages of the prairie-dogs. They give this name to the places inhabited by these little marmots, on account of the cry that they make when they come out of their burrows. As they live in numerous families, their villages are sometimes of considerable extent. One of those which I visited was about half a kilometre in diameter: the other was much smaller; it was barely fifty or sixty metres broad. There are some, I was told, a mile in diameter. The aspect of the two villages which I saw was as different as the nature of the soil. The narrower one, established in a level fertile spot covered with tall herbage, presented a surface entirely denuded by the work of these little animals, without a single blade of grass, but here and there with little mounds from two to three decimetres in height, each one surrounding an opening of the burrows, which communicate with one another. From the summits of these eminences the marmots observe the environs to ascertain that no danger menaces them. At first they do not venture to put out any thing but their heads; but they utter that little sharp bark which has procured them their name; and as they become reassured they gradually come further out. They do not, however, quit their hole and the mound until after long observation of the neighbourhood; and they reenter with astonishing rapidity at the smallest appearance of danger.

The larger village, established on dry, stony, and uneven ground, had not so clean a surface as the first; a thin herbage grew there. It did not seem, as in the other village, that a vigilant edileship took care of this less-favoured spot. It was in this latter village that I found the three animals above mentioned together. I saw the little owl come out of a burrow; and I was fortunate enough to procure it. The hole from which it issued was evidently frequented also by the little marmots; the freshly moved earth showed that it was often traversed. This was not the case in another burrow, in which I discovered the rattlesnake: the earth had not been scratched for a long time. This opening was certainly abandoned by the other animals, and it was clear that no intimacy existed between these latter and the *Crotalus*. An Osage having killed the little marmot before my eyes, I wished much to have the rattlesnake. I had much trouble in making it come out of its retreat; to force it to do so I was obliged to irritate it for a long time with the ramrod of my gun. Finally it came slowly out of the opening, and I was able to pass my running knot round its neck.

The three animals were sent to the museum.—*Comptes Rendus*, Sept. 18, 1876, p. 603.

Tre

cul, Auguste Adolphe Lucien. 1876. "On the capture of rattlesnakes, and on the association of these serpents with a small owl and a little marmot." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 18, 439-440. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222937608682073>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/78380>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222937608682073>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/61866>

Holding Institution

University of Toronto - Gerstein Science Information Centre

Sponsored by

University of Toronto

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.