

König figures a remarkable fossil from the London Clay of Sheppey, which is mentioned in the text as not certainly determinable, but generally regarded, by the anatomists who have examined it, as pertaining to some type of lizard. This specimen is preserved in the British Museum, and the author has determined that it is truly the imperfect head and pectoral arch of a Siluroid. The roof of the skull is preserved almost as far forwards as the middle of the frontals; the pectoral arch is in position, though slightly bent backwards; and the mass of anchylosed anterior vertebræ, with the basioccipital, is displaced downwards and thrown beneath the clavicles. All the bones are remarkably strong, and the exposed surfaces are ornamented with large tubercles. The head must have been originally somewhat deeper than broad, and the roof exhibits no flattening but is strongly arched from side to side. Posteriorly, the supraoccipital projects in the usual manner, probably to meet a dermal plate upon the nape; and the post-temporal element seems to be merged with the bones of the postero-lateral angles of the cranium. It is impossible to determine the family position of the genus in the usual manner, but the skulls of the West-African *Auchenoglanis* and *Synodontis* appear to approach the fossil most closely. The provisional name of *Bucklandium diluvii* may be retained; and the fish is interesting as being the earliest undoubted Siluroid hitherto discovered.

*On the Generic Name of the Tunny.* By DAVID STARR JORDAN.

In the first edition of the 'Règne Animal,' 1817, pp. 313, 314, the generic names *Thynnus* and *Orcynus* were proposed for the Tunnies. The former name was given to the short-finned tunnies, type *Scomber thynnus*, L., and the latter to the species with long, ribbon-shaped pectorals, type *Scomber germo*, Lac., = *Scomber alalunga* (*alalonga*), Gmelin.

It has been generally agreed that these two groups are generically identical. Many European writers have continued to use the name *Thynnus* for both, although this name was much earlier preempted by Fabricius for a genus of insects.

The name *Orcynus* is, however, also preoccupied, having been proposed by Rafinesque in 1815 in his worthless 'Analyse de la Nature' as a substitute for *Scombroides*, Lacépède.

According to current rules of nomenclature the group of Tunnies is left without a tenable generic name. I therefore propose the name *Albacora* for the group of which *Scomber thynnus* is the type, this species being with others widely known as *Albacore*. The subgenus or genus distinguished by the elongate pectorals may be called *Germo*, its type being *Sc. alalonga*, Gmelin.—*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.* 1888, p. 180.



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