3. On some Fishes from the Kilima-njaro district.

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(Plate VIII.)

The fishes of the systems of the great African rivers flowing north-, west-, or eastwards are sufficiently well known to allow us to make a safe inference as to the forms which inhabit the fresh waters of the centre of the continent. Although many new species or even new genera may be discovered, it can hardly be expected that they will add a new distinct feature to what we already know of the general character of the freshwater fauna of Tropical Africa.

The difficulties of preserving fishes and of transporting them to the coast will long continue to be serious obstacles to our detailed acquaintance with Central-African fishes; and therefore it is all the more the duty of the naturalist at home to pay due attention to the specimens, however few in number, which the traveller has been able to get through the perils of a long and tedious overland journey.

From the fresh waters of Kilima-njaro Dr. G. A. Fischer, who was sent by the Geographical Society of Hamburg into the Masai-country, was the first to bring some fishes to Europe. They were described by Dr. J. G. Fischer in the 'Jahrbuch der Hamburger wissenschaftlichen Anstalten,' vol. i. 1884, p. 27, *et seqq.* Dr. Fischer seems to have obtained them from the waters flowing westwards from the western slope of the mountain-range, whilst the two British travellers mentioned below have collected on the southern and south-eastern rivers. This may account, at least partly, for the differentiation of the species obtained by those travellers.

Dr. Fischer's specimens belonged to four species, viz., *Chromis mossambicus*, Gthr. (closely allied to the common and widely spread *Chromis niloticus*), a species of *Clarias* which Dr. J. G. Fischer considers to be the *Clarias mossambicus* of Peters, and two new species of Barbels, *Barbus pagenstecheri* and *Barbus neumayeri*.

To these four species I can now add four others.

1. The fish first to be described here was discovered by Mr. Henry C. V. Hunter, F.Z.S., in Lake Chala, the Crater Lake of Kilima-njaro. Mr. Hunter writes that no other fish was found by him in the lake, and that the fish does not exist in any of the other fresh waters round the mountain.

The specimen is a dried skin, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and in a good state of preservation: it belongs to a form closely allied to *Chromis* and *Hemichromis*, but readily distinguishable from both those genera by the presence of four anal spines. This new genus may be called *Oreochromis*, and the species *Oreochromis hunteri*.

OREOCHROMIS HUNTERI, sp. nov.

B. 5. D. $\frac{17}{11}$. A. $\frac{4}{10}$. P. 15. L. lat. 35. L. transv. 5/15.

The height of the body is nearly equal to the length of the head,

B.

A.

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