

Dr. Cabanis described a *Pytelia*¹ *cinereigula*, of which there had been two specimens lately received at the Berlin Museum from East Africa. One of these had been collected at Zanzibar by Dr. Fischer, the second at Mombassa by Drs. Hildebrandt and von Kalkreuth. During my late visit to Berlin I at once recognized in this species Finsch's *Pytelia wieneri*; and by the kindness of Drs. Cabanis and Reichenow I was allowed to bring back with me to London a third skin of the same bird, still more lately received, and collected in Angola, at Malange. A comparison of this with our living bird has quite confirmed the opinion I had already arrived at, so that Cabanis's name must yield to Finsch's². The Australian habitat is, of course, a mistake, *Pytelia* being an entirely African form. Of the red-beaked section of *Pytelia*, to which it belongs, *P. wieneri* can only be confused with *P. melba* and its ally (or geographical form) *P. ceterior*. The differences between these and the bird under consideration have already been pointed out by Drs. Finsch and Cabanis in their descriptions; suffice it to say that *P. wieneri* is at once, *inter alia*, distinguished from these by its very different markings below, and also by the red of the chin and throat being separated from the greenish-yellow of the lower parts by the interposition of a grey band. In our living bird the beak is bright red and the feet pink; the irides are dark red.

5. Note on a Specimen of Denham's Bustard (*Eupodotis denhami*). By W. A. FORBES, B.A., F.L.S., Prosector to the Society.

[Received June 2, 1880.]

The interest attached to the existence, or otherwise, of special mechanisms connected with the habit of "showing off" in the males of the Otididæ, together with the fact of the subject of the present note being of a species rarely seen in captivity, so that some time may elapse before a further opportunity of examination offers itself, must be my excuse for this short and imperfect notice.

On March 20, 1872, two specimens of *Eupodotis denhami*, from W. Africa, I believe, the first and only ones of this species possessed by the Society, were presented by Governor Usher and C. D. O'Connor, Esq. Of these one lived in good health in the Gardens for many years, dying on May 12 last, after having been attacked by a companion hen of *Otis tarda* that was in the same enclosure with it. Having never observed any signs of "showing off" in this bird, I had always considered it to be a female. This surmise, however, proved incorrect, for on dissection it turned out to be a male.

¹ This description is reproduced in the J. f. O. 1878, p. 101. I may here remark that, in my opinion, *Pytelia*, though perhaps a "nonsense name," is sufficiently "like Latin" to be retained, and not replaced by "*Zonogastris*," or altered into "*Pytilia*," as proposed by Dr. Cabanis (*l. c.* p. 100).

² I also found a single specimen of this bird, with no precise locality, in the Museum at Hamburg.

On examining the mouth there was no trace of any sublingual or gular pouch; on the contrary, the *frænum linguæ* was well developed in its ordinary position. But the *œsophagus*, for the greater part of its course in the neck, though stopping short considerably of its entrance into the thoracic cavity, was much dilated, so that by blowing it up with a blowpipe a large distention of the neck took place, confined, however, to the upper two thirds, or thereabouts, of the neck—the *œsophagus*, which, as usual in the *Otididæ*, develops no crop, being in the rest of its course, till it entered the stomach, of very much smaller calibre.

On inquiring of Mr. Bartlett and the keeper, J. Church, whether they had ever witnessed any display on the part of this bird, they both told me that during the last two summers (1878, 1879) it had "shown off." But this display did not take place in the same way as in *E. australis*, as depicted and described by Dr. Murie (P. Z. S. 1868, pp. 474, 475, pl. xxxvi.); for there was none of that *downward* distention of the *œsophagus*, and consequent trailing of it on the ground, that is so marked a feature in the showing-off of that species; on the contrary, the distention of the *œsophagus* during display in *E. denhami* is *lateral*, the neck being immensely puffed out on both sides in a globular way, and so resembling when seen from in front, to use Mr. Bartlett's words, "a lady's muff." In *E. australis*, it must be remembered, there is a similar dilatation of the *œsophagus*, extending, however, in that species, over a larger extent of its course, so that "before dissection, by filling its cavity with air, the lower portion of the dilated *œsophagus* protruded downwards considerably in front of the *symphysis furculæ*, and formed the depending portion of the sac which was so conspicuous in the living animal" (Garrod, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 473).

6. Descriptions of twelve new Species of Shells.

By EDGAR A. SMITH.

[Received June 16, 1880.]

(Plate XLVIII.)

Of the species here described, all, with the exception of the *Trophon* and the *Helix*, are in the British Museum; the latter are in the collection of Dr. J. Percy, F.R.S.

CONUS CONSANGUINEUS. (Plate XLVIII. fig. 1.)

Testa solida, subponderosa, alba, dilute fusco zonata, epidermide crassa dense lamellosa induta. Spira breviter conica, ad apicem pallide rosea. Anfractus circiter 10, declives, sutura irregulari discreti. Anfr. ultimus superne rotunde angulatus, deinde leviter convexus, in medio levissime constrictus, transversim undulatim rugose striatus, versus basin oblique sulcatus, interstitiis inter



BHL

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Forbes, W. A. 1880. "5. Note on a Specimen of Denham's Bustard (*Eupodotis denhami*)." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1880, 477–478.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1880.tb06587.x>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/90456>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1880.tb06587.x>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/73371>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

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>.