

The teeth of the old male are greatly deformed, the grinders being absent on one side of the upper and on the opposite side of the lower jaw, the teeth working into cavities in the alveolar surface. The nose of the skull below the base of the canines is much broader and more rounded and arched in the males than in the females. The upper canine teeth are nearly of the same form in the two sexes; those of the males are much the thickest.

The skull from the Cape Verde is longer in proportion to its width than any of the other skulls, the line along the upper surface of the skull being full three times the length of the width between the upper edges of the orbits. In other skulls it is twice and a half, or rather more than twice and a half, the width at the same part of the skull. I cannot see any other character to separate it.

The Wild Pigs of Obbo, Central Africa, live under ground; they take possession of the holes made by the *Manis*; these they enlarge and form cool and secure retreats. (Baker, 'Albert N'yanza,' ii. 66.)

---

January 23, 1868.

John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

An extract was read from a letter addressed to Dr. Gray by Mr. Gerard Krefft, Corr. Memb., dated Sydney, 23 Nov. 1867, stating that amongst other fossil remains which he was now arranging for the Australian Museum he had discovered a portion of the humerus of an extinct species of *Echidna* from the Darling Downs, indicating the former existence of a gigantic form of this Monotreme in Australia.

---

The following letter, addressed to the Secretary by Mr. E. P. Ramsay, Corr. Memb., was read:—

“SIR,—Seeing that great interest has been taken in the arrival of a living specimen of the New-South-Wales Lyre-bird (*Menura superba*) in England, I thought it my duty to investigate the subject, and to endeavour to procure some for the Society. I have therefore, during this last breeding-season, paid much attention to their habits and mode of nidification, and by sending men for that purpose have obtained three young birds, which, as soon as they are strong enough, shall be forwarded to the Society with all due care. At present these young birds are doing remarkably well, and are just able to run about and feed themselves. I have also obtained several of their nests and eggs, in the latter of which I find three distinct varieties. The nests also differ, according to the locality frequented by the birds:—some

being constructed of rough material, such as large sticks, stringy bark\*, and dead ferns (*Pteris aquilina*); others of very fine rootlets and pieces of *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense*, which makes a remarkably neat nest. Braisher, the most successful of my collectors, who also procured the young birds, called upon me a few days ago with some of the eggs, when I took the opportunity of getting all the particulars respecting the nidification. I find that in no instance did he meet with more than one egg or one young bird in the same nest. The birds commence to build in May, and lay their eggs in June and July. The female is not fed by the male while she is sitting, nor has Braisher ever observed the male bird near the place after she has laid her egg. The female frequently leaves her egg during the middle of the day to search for food. This may account for the length of time taken in the hatching, which sometimes extends over a month. The young do not leave the nest until they are eight or ten weeks old. When one is standing in front of the nest, the egg or the young bird can easily be seen in it. The female enters the nest *head first*, and then turns round and settles herself on the egg, with her tail sometimes over her back, *but more often bent round by her side*. Thus in time the tail becomes quite askew, and is a tolerable guide to the length of time the bird has been sitting.

“The nests are for the most part placed on the darker side of the gullies and ravines. They are large, oval, domed structures, with the entrance in the front, are usually placed on the ground, at the foot of some stump or tree, by the side of a fallen log; sometimes they are placed on a ledge of rock in the face of a cliff at a considerable height from the ground; occasionally a nest is found in the end of a log which has been hollowed out by fire and formed in the shape of a scoop. They are always built on some solid foundation; nor do I see how such a bulky and loosely built structure could hold together if placed otherwise; great care must be taken in moving the nests to prevent their falling to pieces. I have now before me three nests:—No. 1, taken from the hollow end of a log; No. 2, from a ledge of rock; while the third was found by the side of a fallen tree. No. 2 is composed of fine roots and *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense*, with pieces of *Hypnum*, and lined with feathers; this nest is much more neat, smaller than the others, and looked very beautiful while the ferns and moss which covered the whole of the outside were fresh and green. Nos. 1 and 3 are much the same in appearance and size, being large, oval, dome-shaped structures of sticks, twigs, and roots interwoven loosely with pieces of bark and moss, roots of ferns, and fronds of *Pteris aquilina*; the inside is lined with rootlets and, finally, the long loose feathers from the flanks and backs of the birds. The entrance, which is in the side (or front), is not covered with a hood, nor does its upper edge hang over so as to conceal the egg. The lower edge, if anything, protrudes slightly in all the nests I have examined. The total length

\* The inner bark of *Eucalyptus*, used as ties by the bushmen for almost all purposes.

of the nest is 26 inches, height 12, and width 18 inches; the entrance is 5 or 6 inches in diameter, and its lower edge  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in thickness. The whole of the interior is lined with feathers, which, being much of the same colour as the egg, help to protect it and hide it from view. All the nests and eggs which I possess, with the exception of one, were procured in the Illawarra district, chiefly from the ravines and gullies in the neighbourhoods of Appin and Wollongong. Occasionally the same nest is used more than once, after being lined afresh with feathers. The eggs are of three varieties at least:—

“Var.  $\alpha$ , the most common, is of a light stone-grey, with darker-coloured blotches and spots, and a few jet-black dots; length 2·4 to 2·5 inches by 1·6 to 1·7 in breadth. Other specimens are dull brown, stone-brown, or dark blackish brown, with dull-brown spots and blotches when fresh.

“Var.  $\beta$  is of a reddish-brown colour, with dark blackish-brown spots, and a beautiful blush of pinkish purple over the whole surface. I have only seen one of this very marked variety, 2·35 inches in length by 1·65 in breadth.

“Var.  $\gamma$  is a most peculiar-looking egg, of a uniform dark metallic blackish brown, having obscure spots and blotches of a darker tint, almost invisible at a short distance; length 2·5 by 1·7 inches; and, like many of the other specimens, this variety has jet-black lines and dots dispersed over the surface.

“The young, which are hatched early in August, but sometimes as late as the end of September, are of a whity-brown colour upon leaving the egg, but become darker as they get older; the crown of the head is covered with long dusky slate-coloured down, which hangs over the neck (which is quite bare) on to the back; the wings have a fringe of shorter down round them, being longest on their lower edge; the upper part of the rump, centre of the back, and the tail are also covered with down, while two rows of short down grow along the thighs. The bare triangular part of the neck is surrounded by a narrow fringe of very short down, while two edges, still shorter and of a light yellow colour, grow on either side of the breast or keel of the sternum. Down on the head from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches in length; on rump and tail it is 2 inches long. Bill ·5 inch in length, blackish brown at tip; tarsi ·8 inch in length.

“Upon finding that Mr. Gould is wont to consider the South-Australian Lyre-bird to be of a distinct species from that found in New South Wales, I took the earliest opportunity of obtaining South-Australian specimens, and in due time received from Port Phillip six tolerably good skins, which I have now before me, consisting of three adult males, one young male, and two females. Having closely examined and compared these with numerous specimens shot in various parts of New South Wales, as well as with a very complete series in my own collection, I must say that, although not altogether unprepared, I was greatly disappointed to find that Mr. Gould had endeavoured to form a species from such trivial differences as are exhibited in the more defined and deeper-coloured bars of the two outer tail-feathers of some of the Port-Phillip birds. I say *some*,

because these differences do not exist in *all* the specimens I have examined from those parts. Nevertheless I must acknowledge that in most of the Port-Phillip specimens these bars on the two tail-feathers are *more defined* and of a deeper tint than I have observed in the New-South-Wales specimens. But this I attribute in a great measure to the age of the birds, and also of the tail itself; for an old tail always appears to me to be darker in tint than one freshly grown. I noticed this fact last year, when I examined some fifty specimens, and found that the most perfect tails were lightest in colour, and, moreover, that the two outside tail-feathers were the last to obtain their full length. This may in some way account for Mr. Gould's remark respecting the '*diminished length*' of these feathers in his Port-Phillip specimens; for when fully grown, in all my specimens from the same locality, these feathers are of the same average length, and bear the same proportion to the rest of the tail-feathers as those of the New-South-Wales birds.

"The South-Australian variety, then, differs upon the whole in being of a slightly darker tint, and in having the bars of the two outer tail-feathers more defined, especially at the base, and of a deeper colour than is usually found in New-South-Wales specimens. This darker tint of colour is also visible in the tails of the females. If such slight differences are considered by ornithologists to be specific, no more appropriate name could be found for the South-Australian bird than that chosen by Mr. Gould (*Menura victoriæ*).

"With respect to the *Menura alberti*, I am afraid that I can add but little to the very complete account of it already given by Mr. Gould in his 'Handbook to the Birds of Australia.' We met with it on two occasions only during last year's visit to the Richmond River. So shy and distrustful was this species, that a passing glance and a random shot were all we could get in either instance, which, nevertheless, obtained us two fine specimens. One, a young female (?), shot on the 9th of November, and which I take to be about six months old, had still a large tuft of down on the chest; all the upper surface (except the back of the head and neck, which are dark brown) is of a deep rufous; front of the head, throat, underside of neck, and the upper and under tail-coverts are of a deep bright rufous; the chest is covered with dense, short, stiff, downy feathers of a dull-brown colour; all the under surface, except the centre of the breast and abdomen, which are light brown, is of a sandy buff; tail dark brown underneath, each feather tipped with rufous. Total length 23 inches, tail 14.12, bill 1.7, along the ridge 1.4, width at base .6, height .5, tarsi 4 inches; hind toe 1.4, its claw 1.5; second toe 1.9, its claw 1.2; third toe 2.1, its claw 1.1; fourth toe 1.7, its claw 1 inch. Bill, legs, and claws black."

Mr. Gould made some comments upon Mr. Ramsay's paper, in the course of which he remarked that any additional information respecting the birds forming the genus *Menura* must be of the highest interest to physiologists as well as to ornithologists. The ano-





J. Smit. lith.

M & N Hanhart imp

DENDROCOLAPTES PUNCTICOLLIS.

malous structure and habits of these birds had induced some naturalists to place them among the Gallinaceæ, and others with the Insectores, in which latter order was, in his opinion, their true position. To what family they belonged was still an open question. He had formerly associated them with the American genus *Pteroptochos*, but no longer entertained that view. By one, at least, of the old writers the Lyre-bird was placed with the *Paradiseidæ*, a view which has lately been revived by Mr. Bartlett. The features most favourable to this opinion appeared to be the character of the feathers covering the body, and the peculiar form of the two narrow central tail-feathers, which feathers were nearly of the same form in the true Birds of Paradise.

Mr. Gould then exhibited skins of *Menura superba* and *M. victoriae*, with a chick and egg of the latter species, and directed the attention of the meeting to the peculiar condition of the bird at this early stage of its existence (two days after its exclusion from the egg), when its appearance was so extraordinary as to render it difficult for the most astute ornithologist to determine to what genus it belonged, the entire surface being thickly covered with a lengthened sooty-black down, which assumed the form of a great cowl or hood over the head; while the under surface was so sparsely clothed, that the throat, flanks, and thighs were nearly naked. The chick also differed from those of most other birds in the feebleness or comparative non-development of the tarsi, toes, and nails, particularly when compared with those of the Gallinaceæ and Plovers, in which these organs, so necessary for nimble running, were almost perfect, and eminently fitted for aiding them in procuring their subsistence. The *Menura*, on the other hand, was as helpless as a young thrush, or any other Insectorial nestling. It was evident, therefore, that, like them, the solitary young Lyre-bird remained sitting in its great domed nest, and was entirely dependent upon its parents for food and protection until its feeble legs had become fully developed, and its body covered with real feathers. Whether the chick was blind on exclusion from the egg was at present unknown, and this was a point which it would be very interesting to ascertain.

The following papers were read:—

1. Descriptions of New Species of Birds of the Families *Dendrocolaptidæ*, *Strigidæ*, and *Columbidæ*. By P. L. SCLATER and OSBERT SALVIN.

(Plate V.)

The following descriptions relate to presumed new species of birds which we have lately met with during a revision of the specimens of the families *Dendrocolaptidæ*, *Strigidæ*, and *Columbidæ* in our collections. We hope to give illustrations of the greater portion of them in the forthcoming numbers of our 'Exotic Ornithology.'

1. *DENDROCINCLA RUFICEPS*, sp. nov.

*Brunnescenti-olivacea; pileo, alis extus, et cauda tota castaneis: subtus, præcipue in gula, paulo dilutior: remigum primariorum quinque externorum apicibus nigricantibus: rostro corneo, pedibus corylinis: long. tota 8, alæ 4·2, caudæ 3·2, rostri a rictu 1·35 poll. Angl.*

*Hab.* Isthmus Panamensis.

*Sim.* *D. homochroæ*, sed statura majore, rostro multo fortiore, et dorso olivaceo tincto distinguenda.

Sclater's collection contains a single skin of this *Dendrocinclæ*, which was obtained near the city of Panama by the late Mr. William Thomas Hodgetts Chambers-Hodgetts (formerly Chambers) during a temporary visit to the isthmus. It is, perhaps, the species indicated by Mr. Lawrence as *Dendromanes homochrous* (Ann. L. N. Y. viii. p. 466), but is certainly distinct. We are now inclined to consider Sclater's genus *Dendromanes* to be only subgenerically distinct from *Dendrocinclæ*, of which group the following species are known to us.

a. *Dendromanes.*

1. *D. anabatina*, Sclater, ex Mexico et Guatemala.
2. *D. homochroa*, Sclater, ex Mexico et Guatemala.
3. *D. ruficeps*, nobis, ex Panama.
4. *D. merula* (Licht.), ex Guiana et Amazonia.
5. *D. meruloides* (Lafr.), ex Venezuela.

b. *Dendrocinclæ.*

6. *D. fumigata* (Licht.), ex Brasil.
7. *D. atrirostris* (Lafr.), ex Boliv., Nov. Granada, rep. Æquator. et Panama.
8. *D. longicauda*, Pelzeln, ex Amazonia.
9. *D. tyrannina* (Lafr.), ex Nov. Granada.
10. *D. turdina* (Licht.), ex Brasil.

Of all these ten species there are specimens in Sclater's collection.

We are not acquainted with *D. minor*, lately described by Herr von Pelzeln, 'Orn. Bras.' p. 60.

2. *DENDROCOLAPTES PUNCTICOLLIS*, sp. nov. (Pl. V.)

*Dendrocolaptes multistrigatus*, Scl. et Salv. Ibis, 1860, p. 275 (nec Eytoni).

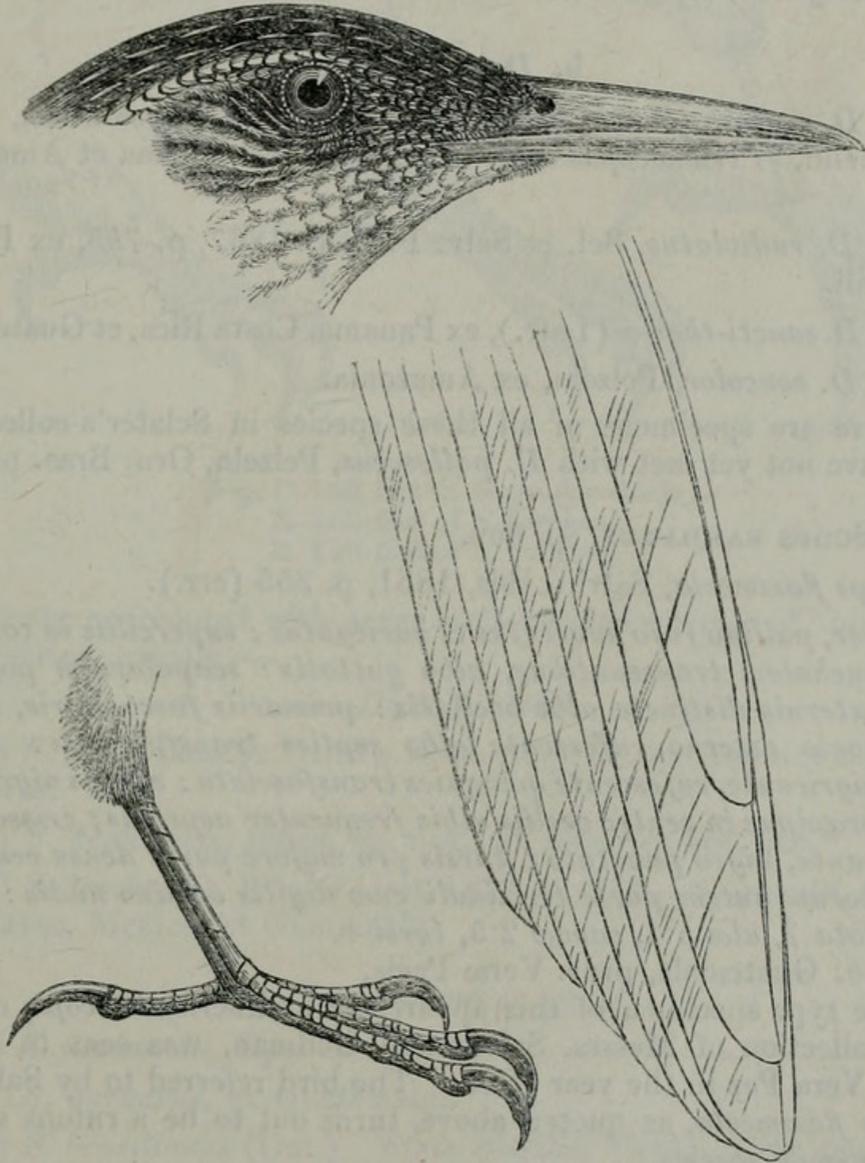
*Olivaceo-brunneus: alis extus et cauda rufis: capite nigricante cum dorso superiore fulvo strigato; subtus dilutior et magis fuscus, gutture albescentiore; collo antico nigro punctato, pectore pallide fuscescenti-albido strigato: ventre toto indistincte nigro transfasciato: tectricibus subalaribus ochraceis nigro*

*punctatis* : rostro pallide corneo, mandibula magis albicante : pedibus nigris : long. tota 10·5, alæ 5·0, caudæ 4·5, rostri a rictu 1·7.

*Hab.* Guatemala, prov. Veræ Pacis.

*Sim.* *D. picumno*, sed rostro longiore angustiore et colore pallidior, collo nigro punctato et tectricibus subalaribus ochraceis dignoscendus.

Fig. A.



*Dendrocolaptes puncticollis.*

We have hitherto referred this bird to *D. multostrigatus* of Eyton (Contr. Orn. 1851, p. 75), but, having recently, through Mr. Thomas Moore's kindness, had an opportunity of examining the type specimen of Mr. Eyton's species in the Derby Museum, find that we have been in error. Mr. Eyton's bird is identical with a Peruvian and New-Granadian species which we consider to be *D. validus* of Tschudi, although, from the badness of the plate and description in the 'Fauna Peruviana,' this identification is open to some doubt.

We are acquainted with six species of this genus, which is divisible into two sections as follows:—

a. *Dendrocops*.

- (1) *D. picumnus* (Licht.), ex Brasil. reg. sylv.  
 (2) *D. puncticollis*, nobis, ex Guatemala.  
 (3) *D. validus* (Tsch.): Scl. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1866, p. 184. *D. multostrigatus*, Eyton. Ex Peruvia orient. et Nov. Granada.

b. *Dendrocolaptes*.

- (4) *D. certhia* (Bodd. ex Pl. Enl. 621). *D. cayennensis*, auct. ex Gmelin. *Premnocopus undulatus*, Cab. Ex Guiana et Amazonia inf.  
 (5) *D. radiolatus*, Scl. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1867, p. 755, ex Peruv. orientali.  
 (6) *D. sancti-thomæ* (Lafr.), ex Panama, Costa Rica, et Guatemala.  
 (7) *D. concolor*, Pelzeln, ex Amazonia.

There are specimens of all these species in Sclater's collection. We have not yet met with *D. pallescens*, Pelzeln, Orn. Bras. p. 61.

3. *SCOPS BARBARUS*, sp. nov.

*Scops flammeola*, Salvin, Ibis, 1861, p. 355 (err.).

*Niger, pallido rufo punctatus et variegatus: superciliis in torquem nuchalem transeuntibus, albo guttatis: scapularium pogoniis externis distincte albo ocellatis: primariis fusco-nigris, in pogonio externo rufescente albo septies transfasciatis: cauda nigricante, rufescente quinquies transfasciata: subtus nigricans, præcipue in ventre ocellis albis frequenter aspersus; crisso albicante, nigro punctato: tarsis pro majore parte dense vestitis; horum autem parte terminali cum digitis omnino nudis: long. tota 7, alæ 5·4, caudæ 2·5, tarsi 1.*

*Hab.* Guatemala, prov. Veræ Pacis.

The type specimen of this apparently undescribed *Scops*, now in the collection of Messrs. Salvin and Godman, was sent to Salvin from Vera Paz in the year 1866. The bird referred to by Salvin as *Scops flammeola*, as quoted above, turns out to be a rufous variety of the same species.

*Scops barbarus*, as we propose to term it, the last-mentioned example having been obtained near the village of Santa Barbara, in Vera Paz, is readily distinguishable from every other American *Scops*, except *Scops flammeola*, by its small size. From the latter it may be at once distinguished by the feathering of the tarsus terminating above its distal end, and leaving a narrow naked ring round its lower end (see fig. 2). In *Scops flammeola* (fig. 1) the feathering is continued rather beyond the extremity of the tarsus, and covers the basal joints of the anterior phalanges. The present bird is also remarkable for the round white spots which thickly cover its under plu-

mage. In *Scops flammeola* there are strongly marked longitudinal bars on the under surface, as in *Scops asio* and its allies.

Fig. B.

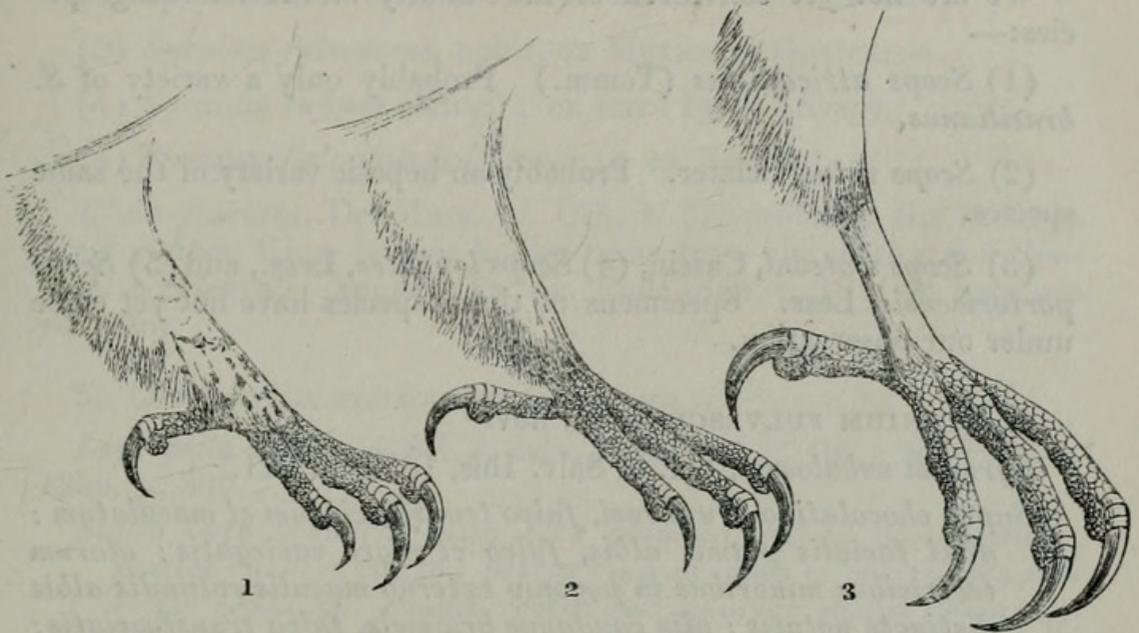


Fig. 1. Left foot of *Scops flammeola*.  
 2. Left foot of *S. barbarus*.  
 3. Left foot of *S. nudipes*.

We are acquainted with seven well-marked species of this genus in America, namely:—

a. *Digitis setosis.*

(1) *S. asio* (Linn.): Baird's B. N. A. p. 51, ex America septentr. universa.

(2) *S. kennicotti*, Baird, sp. nov., ex America bor.-occ.\*

(3) *S. trichopsis*, Wagler, Isis, 1832, p. 276. *S. macalli*, Cassin. Ex Texas, Mexico, et Guatemala.

b. *Digitis omnino nudis.*

(4) *S. flammeola*, Kp., ex Mexico.

(5) *S. barbarus*, ex Guatemala.

(6) *S. brasiliensis* (Gm.). *Strix choliba*, Vieill. *Strix crucigera*, Spix. Ex America meridionali tropica.

c. *Digitis cum tarsorum dimidio basali nudis.*

(7) *S. nudipes* (Vieill.). *Bubo nudipes*, Vieill. Ois. de l'Am. Sept. i. p. 53, t. 22. *Ephialtes nudipes*, Cassin, List of Owls. Ex Costa Rica (Arcé); Bogota (Cassin).

\* We have lately had an opportunity of examining the type specimen of this new species, which has been sent to this country to be figured for Mr. Elliot's work on the 'Birds of North America,' now in progress. It is similar in form to *S. asio*, but is of larger size and more distinctly marked.

Mr. Salvin has lately received from Costa Rica a skin of a *Scops* which seems to be referable to this species. It is immediately distinguishable by its naked tarsus (see fig. 3).

We are not yet convinced of the validity of the following species:—

(1) *Scops atricapillus* (Temm.) Probably only a variety of *S. brasilianus*.

(2) *Scops ustus*, Sclater. Probably an hepatic variety of the same species.

(3) *Scops watsoni*, Cassin, (4) *Scops lophotes*, Less., and (5) *Scops portoricensis*, Less. Specimens of these species have not yet come under our observation.

#### 4. SYRNIUM FULVESCENS, sp. nov.

*Syrnium nebulosum*, Scl. et Salv. Ibis, 1859, p. 221.

*Supra chocolatino-brunneum, fulvo transfasciatum et maculatum: disci facialis plumis albis, fulvo et nigro variegatis: alarum tectricibus minoribus in pogonio externo maculis rotundis albis distincte notatis: alis caudaque brunneis, fulvo transfasciatis: subtus fulvum, in pectore albicans, brunneo frequenter transfasciatum, ventre pallide fulvescenti-albido fulvo strigato, crisso immaculato: tectricibus subalaribus pallide fulvis: tarsis cum digitorum phalangibus primis dense vestitis, plumis fulvis nigricante punctulatis: rostro clare flavo: digitis nudis carneis; unguibus nigris: long. tota 16, alæ 12.5, caudæ 7.3, tarsi 2.2.*

*Hab.* Guatemala.

*Obs.* Sim. *S. nebuloso*, sed crassitie minore, colore magis fulvo, et digitis nisi in summis phalangibus nudis dignoscendum.

The collection of Messrs. Salvin and Godman contains three specimens of this Owl from various parts of Guatemala; and we have met with other examples from the same country. We have hitherto confounded it with *Syrnium nebulosum*, but have recently convinced ourselves upon reexamination of its being quite distinct. In its more denuded toes it rather resembles the southern *S. hylophilum*. The fourth and fifth quills of the wing are nearly equal and longest. The ear-opercle is very well developed, as in *S. nebulosum*.

Mr. Gurney's collection contains a skin of this Owl, said to be from Mexico; so that the Mexican bird, hitherto referred to *S. nebulosum*\*, may possibly belong to this species.

We are acquainted with the following species of American Owls strictly referable to the genus *Syrnium*, which contains, according to our views, a series of large species without ear-horns, having the lower portion of the toes bare, the facial disk for the most part entire, and the operculum of the ear greatly developed. Species of Wagler's genus *Ciccaba* have been very much mixed up with those of this group. The presence or absence of the ear-opercle, however, is suf-

\* Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 298.

ficient at once to indicate to which genus each species should be referred:—

- (1) *Syrnium cinereum* (Gm.): ex Am. bor.
- (2) *Syrnium nebulosum* (Forst.): ex Am. bor.-orient.
- (3) *Syrnium fulvescens*, nobis, ex Mexico et Guatemala.
- (4) *Syrnium rufipes* (King): ex terra Ignea (King).
- (5) *Syrnium hylophilum* (Temm.): ex Brasil.

*Ulula fasciata*, Des Murs, Ic. Orn. t. 37, probably the same as *Strix rufipes*, King, is only known to us from the plate; and *Syrnium occidentale*, Xantus, Pr. Ac. Phil. 1859, p. 193, we have not yet seen.

5. LEPTOPTILA PLUMBEICEPS, sp. nov.

*Leptoptila rufaxilla*, Scl. & Salv. Ibis, 1860, p. 402; Scl. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 309.

*Supra læte brunnea, pileo toto plumbeo, antice albescentiore, postice violaceo tincto: subtus vinacea, gula et ventre toto cum crisso candidis: caudæ rectricibus quatuor mediis dorso concoloribus, lateralibus nigris albo terminatis: subalaribus castaneis: remigibus intus cinnamomeo-castaneis, remige externo et ceterorum apicibus plumbeis: rostro nigro: pedibus carneis: long. tota 10, alæ 5.5, caudæ 3.6, tarsi 1.1.*

*Hab.* Prov. Veræ Pacis in rep. Guatemalensi, et Mexico.

*Obs.* Affinis *L. rufaxillæ*, ex Am. merid. sed pileo saturate plumbeo dignoscenda.

*Mus.* Salvino-Godmannico.

6. LEPTOPTILA CERVINIVENTRIS, sp. nov.

*Leptoptila*, sp.?, Salv. Ibis, 1861, p. 355.

*Supra læte brunnea, cervice postica violaceo vix tincta: pileo antico albescente vinaceo induto: subtus cervino-cinnamomea, pectore plumbescente tincto, gula albicante: ventre superiore fumido-brunneo, hypochondriis obscurioribus, ventre imo cum crisso medialiter albis: caudæ rectricibus quatuor mediis supra dorso concoloribus: lateralibus nigricantibus, duabus aut tribus utrinque externis anguste albo terminatis: remigibus intus ad basin cum subalaribus castaneis: rostro nigro, pedibus læte carneis: long. tota 9, alæ 5.3, caudæ 3.4, tarsi 1.2.*

*Hab.* Prov. Veræ Pacis in rep. Guatemalensi.

*Mus.* Salvino-Godmannico.

*Sim.* *L. cassini*, sed pectore dilutiore et vinaceo tincto et ventre summo saturate cervino differt.

We are acquainted with the following species of the genus *Leptoptila*, which may be easily distinguished from all other genera of *Columbidæ* (except *Peristera*) by the peculiar acumination of the outer primary. All of them have the under wing-coverts deep cin-

namomeous or chestnut, and the outer tail-feathers more or less terminated with white:—

(1) *Leptoptila jamaicensis* (Linn.); Bp. Consp. ii. p. 73, et Icon. t. 119. Ex ins. Jamaica. Mus. Brit.

(2) *L. albifrons*, Bp. Consp. ii. p. 74. *Perist. brachyptera*, Gray, MS. Ex Mexico et Guatemala. Mus. Brit. et S. & G.

(3) *L. verreauxi*, Bp. Consp. ii. p. 75. *Perist. brevipennis*, G. R. Gray, in Mus. Brit. Ex ins. Trinit. Venezuela, Nov. Granada, Panama, rep. Æquatoriali et Veragua. Mus. Brit. et S. & G.

(4) *L. rufaxilla* (Rich. et Bern.); Bp. Consp. ii. p. 73. Ex Guiana et valle Amazon. inf. Mus. Brit.

(5) *L. plumbeiceps*, sp. nov. Ex Vera Pace et Mexico.

(6) *L. erythrothorax* (Temm.); Bp. Consp. ii. p. 74. *Peristera macrodactyla*, G. R. Gray in Mus. Brit. Ex Guiana et Brasil. Mus. Brit. et S. & G.

(7) *L. cassini*, Lawr. Pr. Ac. Phil. 1867, p. 94. Ex Panama.

(8) *L. cerviniventris*, nobis, ex Guatemala.

We have not yet met with examples of *L. dubusi*, Bp.

2. Notice of *Macacus lasiotus*, a New Species of Ape from China, in the Collection of the Society. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., &c.

(Plate VI.)

Mr. Bartlett has brought to the British Museum for my examination and identification a large strong tailless male Macaque, which has just been imported from China in the 'Star of the Isles,' and added to the Collection of the Society. As the species is evidently new to science, I propose to name it *Macacus lasiotus*, and send the following short description, waiting until the animal can be more carefully examined after its death; for it is too fierce and unquiet to be closely observed or handled.

In the want of a tail, the square form of the rump, and the colour of the face it is much like the Magot (*Inuus ecaudatus*), or Tailless Ape of Africa; but in the colour of the fur, of the skin of the hinder part of the body, and in its general appearance it is more nearly allied to the Rhesus (*Macacus rhesus*) of Asia. Indeed it is very like a very fine large specimen of that group of Monkeys that has accidentally lost its tail; but the want of the tail is evidently a natural deficiency.



J Wolf luth.

M & N Hanhart imp.

MACACUS LASIOTIS.







M&N Haehart imp

PTEROMURA SANDBACHII.

J Wolf lith

## MACACUS LASIOTUS. The Hairy-eared Macaque. (Pl. VI.)

Tail none; ears ovate, prominent, exposed, covered with hair; fur yellowish olive, very minutely punctulated by the small sub-terminal yellow rings; of the rump and outer side of the thighs reddish; of the face, cheeks, chest, front of the shoulders, and under part of the body grey; the skin of the hinder part of the body near the callosities crimson; the crown covered with short erect or reflexed hairs, with a few blackish hairs projecting forwards over the eyebrows; the chest and under part of the body covered with abundance of hairs; skin of face whitish flesh-coloured, with a small red naked spot at the outer hinder angle of each eye; hand covered with hair, blackish.

*Hab.* China.

This fine Ape was presented to the Society on the 15th instant by Miss Charlotte Alice Winkworth, of 65 Gloucester Crescent, Regent's Park. Miss Winkworth received it from a relative in Shanghai, who sent the following account of the animal:—

“The Ape is about three or four years old, a fine male; he comes from the province of Szechuen, in China, and is probably the first conveyed home from the *interior* of China. In the winter he has a splendid coat of rich brown hair, very long and thick; and is very fierce and powerful.”

The canines are either not much developed, or they have been broken out, perhaps in some encounter with the wires of his den.

### 3. Observations on the Margined-tailed Otter (*Pteronura sandbachii*). By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., &c.

(Plate VII.)

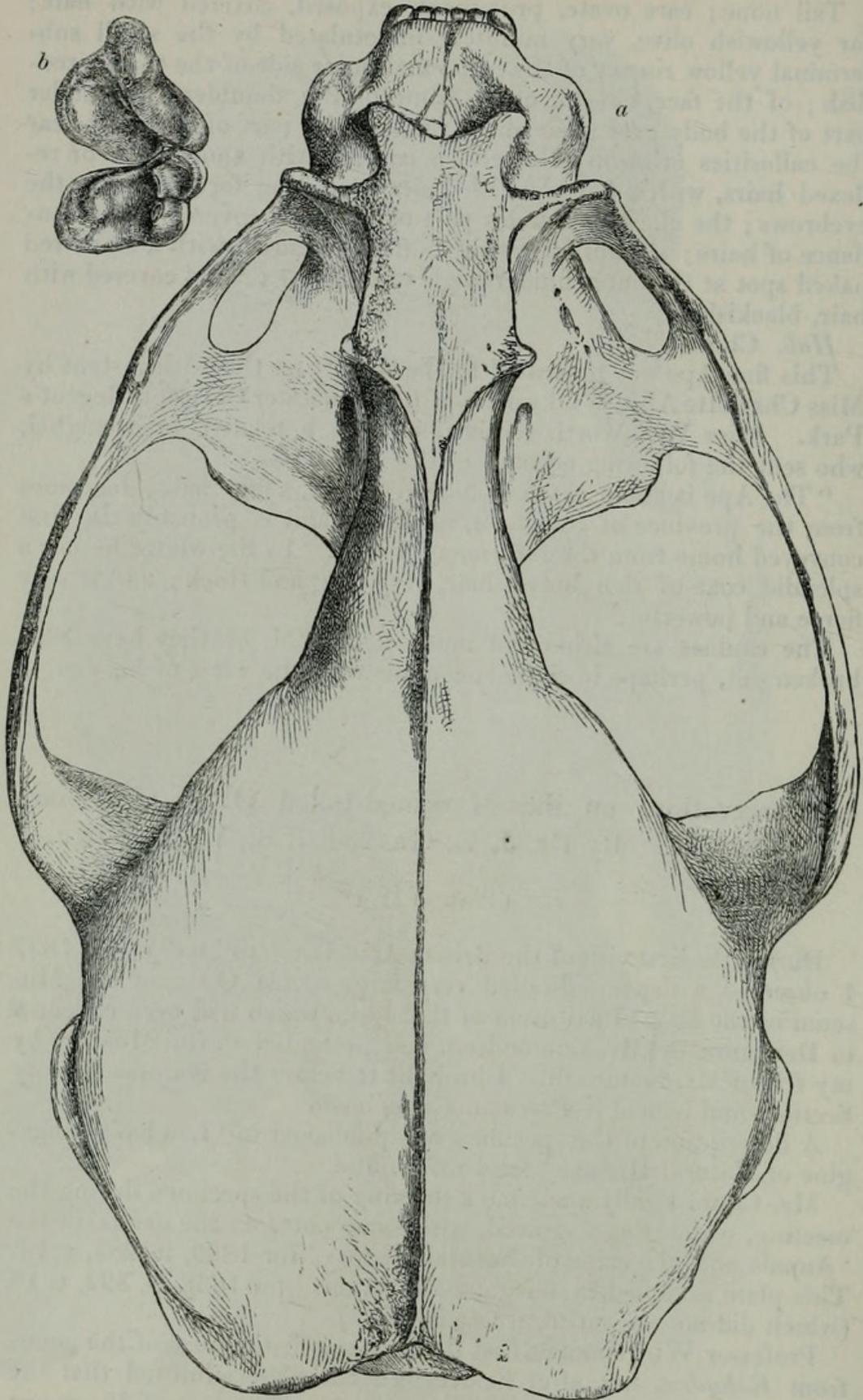
During the first visit of the British Association to Liverpool in 1837 I observed a depressed-tailed very large-footed Otter in the Museum of the Royal Institution of that town, which had been collected in Demerara by Mr. Edmondson, and presented to the Museum by my friend Mr. Sandbach. I brought it before the Natural-History Section, and named it *Pteronura sandbachii*.

A description of the specimen was published in ‘*Loudon's Magazine of Natural History*’ for 1837, i. 580.

Mr. Gould kindly made me a drawing of the specimen during the meeting, which was engraved, with some notes on the genus, in the ‘*Annals and Magazine of Natural History*’ for 1839, ii. 285, t. 14. This plate is copied in Wiegmann's ‘*Archiv*’ for 1838, p. 392, t. 10 (which did not appear until late in 1839).

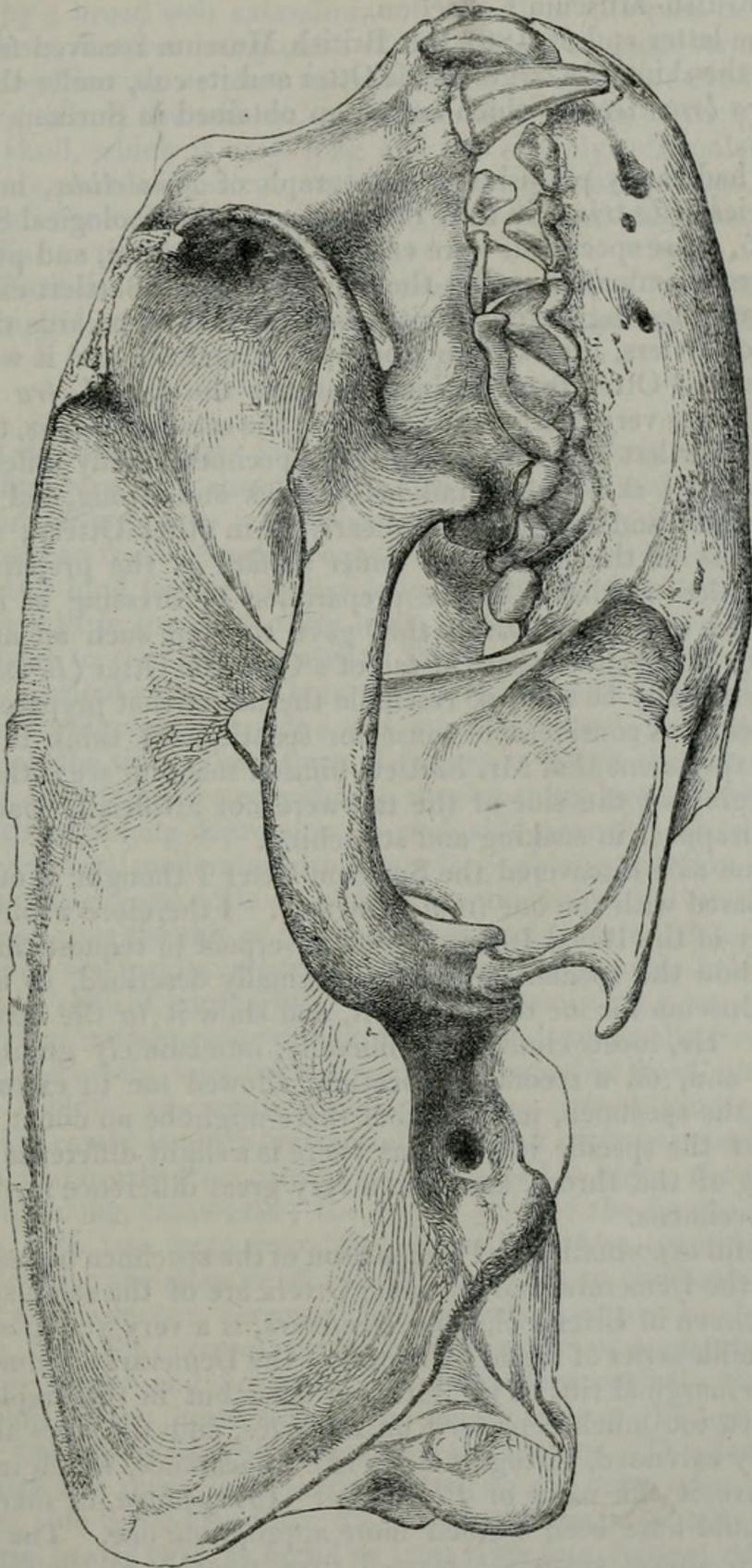
Professor Wiegmann at first doubted the distinctness of the genus from *Enhydra*, but after he received the plate admitted that the genera were distinct. He proposed to alter the name of the genus from *Pteronura* to *Pterura*.

Fig. 1.



a. Upper surface of skull of *Pteronura sandbachii*.  
b. Upper sectorial tooth and tubercular grinder of *P. sandbachii*.

Fig. 2.



Side view of skull of *Pteronura sandbachii*.

The Liverpool specimen has remained unique up to this time, and *Pteronura* was the only well-established genus of Mammalia wanting in the British-Museum Collection.

In the latter end of 1867 the British Museum received from Dr. Krauss the skins of a large female Otter and its cub, under the name of *Lutra brasiliensis*, which had been obtained in Surinam by Mr. Kappler.

As I had lately published a monograph of *Mustelidæ*, including the species of *Lutrinæ*, in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1865, these specimens were entered in the register, and put away for future examination. But the skin which Mr. Bartlett exhibited at the last Meeting having excited new interest as regards the specimens of Otters, the skins in store were examined, and it was soon seen that the Otter from Surinam was not the true *Lutra brasiliensis*, and was very nearly allied to, if not the same species as, the skin that Mr. Bartlett had exhibited. The specimen chiefly differs from Mr. Bartlett's skin in the tail being thick and strong, and convex on the upper and lower surface, nearly as in other Otters; so that the flatness of the upper and under surface of the prepared skin was doubtless produced by the preparation or dressing of it; and it was this excessive flatness that gave the tail such an artificial appearance. I believe that the tail of a Common Otter (*L. vulgaris*) might artificially be made to resemble the tail of that prepared skin. That there was considerable cause for scepticism I think is proved by the experiment that Mr. Bartlett himself made to see if the cord-like margins on the side of the tail were not artificially made, and would disappear in soaking and stretching.

As soon as I discovered the Surinam Otter I thought it ought to be compared with the one from Demerara. I therefore wrote to the Secretary of the Royal Institution of Liverpool to request that they would allow the specimen, which I originally described, to be sent to the Museum for me to examine it, and show it to the Zoological Society. He, most kindly and liberally, immediately granted my request, and, on a second application, allowed me to extract the skull of the specimen, in order that there might be no doubt on the subject of the specific identity, as there is a slight difference in the colouring of the throat, and also a very great difference in the size of the specimens.

A careful examination and comparison of the specimen has satisfied me that the Demerara and Surinam Otters are of the same species. The specimen in Liverpool, from Demerara, is a very young animal, with its milk series of teeth. The tail of the Demerara specimen has the same marginal ribs as the Surinam one; but in the preparation it has been too much depressed on the sides, and the sides also are artificially extended, giving it a fin like appearance, which induced me to give it the name of *Pteronura*. *Craspedura*, or margined-tailed, would have been a much more appropriate one. The bones have been almost entirely extracted from the skin of the feet, and they have been evidently flattened by the stuffer. The size and flatness of the feet in this specimen, which gave the animal so much

apparent relation to the Sea-Otters, do not exist in the unstuffed specimen from Surinam, which has large feet, with very strong toes united by a broad web extending to the end of the toes, and large acute claws, the feet being quite of the normal or usual form of the Otters', and having no more resemblance to those of the Sea-Otter or *Enhydra* than is the case in any of the other species of the genus.

The skull, which is very long and has sharply tubercular teeth, also shows that it is far removed from the very short, broad, square skull, with the very broad teeth with hemispherical tubercles, that is so peculiar to the Sea-Otter.

The Surinam specimen and the reexamination of the Demerara specimen and its skull enable me to give a revised character to the genus:—

#### PTERONURA.

Head depressed; ears hairy, small; muzzle entirely covered with hair. Fur very soft, short, with a fine short soft under-fur. Feet large and strong; toes 5.5, elongate, strong, widely webbed to the ends; toes on fore feet nearly equal, thumb smaller; the three outer toes of the hind feet are rather longer than the first toes, and the great toe a little smaller; claws large, compressed, acute; soles and palms bald to the heel, striated. Tail conical, tapering, rather depressed, covered with short hair, and furnished with a subcylindrical prominent ridge on each side; end more depressed, two-edged, and fringed at the tip. Teats four, abdominal. Skull elongate, rather high for an Otter; face very short; nose-opening large, nearly erect; nose with an oblong depression on each side near the orbits; orbits very incomplete, moderate, with a very large oblong aperture beneath the lower edge, and with an obtuse prominence in the front of the upper edge near the side of the nose; forehead shelving, flat, straight, sides over the orbits straight and short, triangular behind the very small conical supraorbital process; crown with a very narrow central ridge; brain-case very long, twice as long as the face to the back of the orbits, very narrow and compressed in front, broad and swollen behind; zygomatic arch very strong, broad, leaving a very large wide cavity beneath, infraorbital process slightly marked; the occipital end nearly erect, nearly twice as broad as high; the foramen magnum oblong, transverse; the upper edge of the foramen thick, concave, with two large roundish perforations close together in the upper part for the passage of two blood-vessels to the brain-cavity. Palate rather concave, narrowed behind, with a square hinder nasal opening. The four central cutting-teeth in each jaw moderate, equal, the outer larger and broader. The premolars conical; the front very small, on the inner side of the hinder edge of the base of the canine; two others conical, with distinct cingulum. The flesh-tooth large, with the inner lobe nearly as long as the outer edge, oblong, the front side being broadest. The last or tubercular grinder oblong, transverse, nearly twice as broad as long, with four distinct tubercles. The flesh-tooth of the lower jaw oblong, more than twice as long as broad, with three large anterior and one very large posterior lobes;



# BHL

## Biodiversity Heritage Library

Gould, John. 1868. "January 23, 1868." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1868, 49–71. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1868.tb00443.x>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/91104>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1868.tb00443.x>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/73843>

### **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>.