

wards the anus on the under surface there was a silvery line, with pale bluish-grey spots.

No beard under the eyes. The general form of the glands resembles little quilts in the skin: those towards the anus were roundish and tuberculous, and form a little triangular row immediately above the vent; on the belly they were entirely linear. The inner row on the dorsal surface bifurcates into two at the throat, the outer row approaching nearer the eye, and the two inner receding towards the centre. On the dorsal line between the three lateral rows are two minute semituberculate linear glands. In other respects the description accords with yours in the 'Annals.'

Female specimen, with nearly mature ova. Caught in February.

In the Baaken's River, near Port Elizabeth, the commonest kind corresponds to your grey specimens, and is small in size. I think I have seen the same here, but have never minutely examined them. My specimens are in the Museum at Port Elizabeth.

I have seen a specimen similar to that described, only larger and of a much paler and yellower colour, in the Eland's River at Uitenhage. It was feeding on a dead baboon; but I could not capture it. I caught, the other day, a smaller specimen than that described, with very faint spots; but the glands were very large, and almost all quite round. I unfortunately lost it, or I would have described it.

The *Dactylethrae* are called by the Dutch "Platanas," and by the Kafirs "Izeyla." They live at the bottom of muddy pools, or "zeekoe gattes," as they are called here, and are exceedingly voracious; they and the crabs give the fisherman a deal of trouble, by taking his baits when fishing for eels. They are exceedingly slimy and disgusting to handle, and are usually found in deep water. It is amusing to see them rise to take breath; they just pop their heads out, and you hear a piff, as of a jet of gas.

Mr. R. Hallack, of Port Elizabeth, told me that he was much surprised, one wet season, to see numbers about his yard, as there was no pool or stream in the neighbourhood; and he could not conceive where they came from, as he had never seen them before there; nor has he seen them since.

I trust I shall shortly be able to send you some more information. I know nothing about their larvæ. Hoping that this may prove of some interest,

Believe me, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

J. P. MANSELL VEALE.

Eland's Drift, near Adelaide.

March 6, 1866.

On the Occurrence of Bones of Marmots near Graz.

By Professor OSCAR SCHMIDT.

In the immediate vicinity of Graz, on the Rainerkogel, about 200 feet above the Mur, an old Marmot-dwelling has been discovered, with the skeletons of four individuals, belonging to three generations.

This discovery, the first and only one of the kind in Styria, leads directly to that diluvial period when, by the extension of the glaciers in the higher regions of the Alps, the Upper Alpine animals and the Alpine flora were driven down into the low grounds, the evidences of which have hitherto been detected chiefly in Switzerland. —*Bericht der Akad. der Wiss. in Wien*, March 8, 1866, p. 46.

Researches upon the Hydrobiinæ and allied forms; chiefly made upon Materials in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.
By Dr. WILLIAM STIMPSON.

The great difficulty of studying the anatomy of the Hydrobiinæ, owing to their diminutive size, has, with few exceptions, caused conchologists to classify them merely from the form and other characters of the shell, and such parts of the animal as can be seen protruded when in motion. Hence rather widely different views have been entertained in regard to their generic relations, some referring a part of them to the genus *Paludina*, others to *Melania*, *Leptoxis*, *Cyclostoma*, &c., while other authors have more properly proposed for the reception of certain types the genera *Amnicola*, *Pomatiopsis*, *Somatogyrus*, &c. Even those who have admitted these new genera, however, still differed in regard to their family affinities, some placing certain of them in the *Melaniidæ*, others in the *Rissoidæ*, *Viviparidæ*, *Littorinidæ*, &c., while still other conchologists proposed to establish for their reception a new family, *Amnicolidæ*.

After a thorough and searching investigation of the whole subject, particularly of the structure of the softer parts and the dentition of many of these types, Dr. Stimpson arrives at the conclusion that these little snails all belong to the *Rissoidæ*, to which they had in part been referred by H. & A. Adams; though he also includes in the family the genera *Lithoglyphus* and *Paludestrina* (referred by those authors to the *Littorinidæ*), as well as several new genera he finds it necessary to establish. He likewise suggests that *Pyrgula*, *Tricula*, *Cecina*, and *Blanfordia* probably belong to this group; while he excludes from it the genus *Barleea*, which had been included by H. & A. Adams.

After thus eliminating the extraneous genera, and including others not previously known to belong to this family, he gives a full and clear diagnosis of the group, by which it can readily be distinguished from the families *Littorinidæ*, *Viviparidæ*, *Truncatellidæ*, *Melaniidæ* and *Valvatidæ*, with which it is more or less nearly allied, or has in part been confounded. He then defines the following six subfamilies, into which the group is found to be naturally divisible:—

1. *Bythiniinæ*, including *Bythinia*, Gray.
2. *Rissoininaæ*, including *Rissoina*, D'Orb.
3. *Rissoinæ*, including *Rissoa*, Frém., *Cingula*, Flem., *Alvania*, Risso, and *Onobia*, *Setia*, *Ceratia*, and *Fenella*, H. & A. Adams.
4. *Skeneinæ*, including *Skenea*, Flem.
5. *Hydrobiinæ*, including *Hydrobia*, Hartm., *Littorinella*, Braun,



Schmidt, Oscar. 1866. "On the occurrence of bones of Marmots near Graz." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 17, 392–393.

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