

Karl Möbius, in his very interesting lecture on the "psychischer Horizont der Thiere," figures the animal of *Mya arenaria*, which has unequal valves, and represents it as sunk perpendicularly in the sand. It would be very desirable that any body having the opportunity of observing the bivalve Mollusca in their living state should examine into the truth of this theory, and record the exceptions.

The Skeleton of Sphargis coriacea from Surinam.

By Dr. FERDINAND KRAUSS.

I have compared the adult skeleton in the Stuttgart Museum from Surinam with the figures of the skeleton of the French specimen in the 'Archives du Muséum.' I can find no difference between them; but I notice that no account of the length of the Paris specimen is given, so that we do not know if it is an adult or a young one.

The Surinam specimen in the Stuttgart Museum measures in a straight line, from the end of the skull to the tip of the tail, 187 centims.; the skull is 25 centims. long and 21.5 centims. broad, the fore foot (humerus to the point of the digit) 87 centims., hind foot 66 centims.

The Deal-fish (Trachipterus arcticus).

In the Report of the Montrose Natural-History and Antiquarian Society for 1873 there is the description of a Vaagmaer or deal-fish, found on the beach at Buddin Bay, near Montrose, and presented to the Society by Joseph Johnston and Sons. The description is accompanied by a very good photograph, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. The Society's specimen appears to be the *T. arcticus* of Nilsson and Günther.

Damonia unicolor, a new Species of Water-Tortoise from China, sent by Mr. Swinhoe. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Mr. Swinhoe has sent a number of tortoises in spirits from Shanghai. They consist of:—

1. Several specimens of *Landmania perocellata*, all young; but Mr. Swinhoe says that it grows to the length of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet.
2. Several specimens of *Damonia Reevesii*, most being of adult age, some being even between 4 and 5 inches long, larger than the adult specimen described by me in the Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1873, xi. p. 299.

They all have the shell of a nearly uniform pale brown colour, and are black beneath. The head is large and broad, uniform olive above, with a white streak from the middle of the back of the eye, which forks on the cheek, the upper branch being continued along the side of the neck, the lower branch forked again in front of the tympanum, with the upper branch reflexed and the lower arched; but the form of these lines is not important, as they vary on two

sides of the same specimen, viz. on one side being continuous and on the other broken up into oblong spots. In one specimen there is a ring-like spot, including a small white central spot, on the hinder part of the eye on one side, and not on the other. There are one or two obscure streaks on the side of the neck, parallel to the upper one. I described the head and neck of this species as being streaked when mentioning the species of the hairy tortoise of the Chinese in the Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1873, xi. p. 148.

3. Several specimens of what Mr. Swinhoe very correctly considers a new species of Terrapin, which I propose to name

Damonia unicolor. (The Black Damonia.)

Animal and shell black. Shell oblong, three-keeled. Vertebral shields oblong, broader than long, the first one nearly square, as broad behind as in front; vertebral keel broad and blunt in front, sharper and higher behind; the lateral keels blunt, rather above the middle of the plates.

Shanghai (Swinhoe). Brit. Mus.

This species is very like *Damonia Reevesii*. It chiefly differs from it in the animal and shell being black, in the front vertebral plate being more square, nearly as broad behind as in front, in the head being smaller and narrower, covered with a smooth hard plate, and the sides of the head and neck being uniformly black.

The inguinal plate varies in size: it is generally larger than in *Damonia Reevesii*; but in one specimen it is smaller and nearly of the same size; and it varies in size and form also in *D. Reevesii*.

This species is quite different from *Damonia nigricans* (also from China)—which has a single keel, and the neck marked with broad, pale, more or less interrupted longitudinal streaks.

A new and ingenious American Move in the Game of Priority.

The following circular letter, partly printed, partly written, which has just come to our knowledge, will, we think, somewhat amuse our readers:—

“BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.

June 6, 1873.

“To the Secretary of the ———— Society.

“DEAR SIR,—You are hereby notified that a paper entitled “Contributions to a Knowledge of North-American Moths,” by A. R. Grote, has been read this evening before this Society, declaring that three new genera [*Litognatha*, *Meghypena*, *Phæcasiophora*] and nineteen hitherto undescribed species [*Acronycta* 4, *Agrotis* 1, *Cloantha* 2, *Litognatha* 2, *Meghypena* 2, *Botis* 1, *Eurycreon* 1, *Phæcasiophora* 1, *Penthina* 3, *Graptolitha* 1, *Æta* 1] occur in the North-American insect-fauna (whereof these Presents, to which the Seal of this Society is affixed, are evidence), and that this Society



Gray, John Edward. 1873. "Damonina unicolor, a new species of water-tortoise from China, sent by Mr. Swinhoe." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 12, 77–78.

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