tion of this paper—the former for advice on the conchological aspect of the question, and the latter for having supplied me with references to the literature on the subject of the nomenclature laws.

LXII.—*Descriptions of Three new Bats in the British Museum Collection.* By Oldfield Thomas.

Hipposiderus Pratti, sp. n.

Allied and but little inferior in size to *H. armiger*. Frontal sac present (in the female, therefore certainly large in the as yet unknown male); the fleshy prominences on each side of the sac still more developed than in that species, and forming a sort of supplementary nose-leaf more than 3 millim. high, running right across the muzzle, and only interrupted in the centre where the opening of the frontal gland is placed. (In the male there is no doubt a still further development of this remarkable structure.) Terminal erect part of the true nose-leaf high in the centre and sloping down rapidly on the sides, its upper edge therefore far more convex than in the other species of the genus; its outer edges not continuous with the horseshoe; its front surface with a single central vertical ridge. Front edge of horseshoe sharply and distinctly notched in the centre. Two supplementary leaflets present on each side of the muzzle.

Ears as in *H. armiger*. Wing-membrane attached to the ankles. Last caudal vertebra free of the interfemoral membrane.

Colour of the fur (in alcohol) apparently dull smoky grey above and below.

Dimensions of the type, an adult female in alcohol:—

Head and body 90 millim.; tail 56; head 33; ear, above crown, 24; forearm 83 (=3·25 inches); lower leg 35; hind foot, including claws, 21.

Hab. Kia-ting-fu *, Western Sze-chuen, China. Collected by A. E. Pratt, Esq.

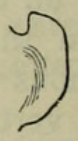
* Found in the artificial caves made by the ancient inhabitants of the district. In the very same cave as this specimen Mr. Pratt obtained a male of what appears to be *H. armiger*, unless the male of *H. Pratti* is like *H. armiger* while the female is quite different. This, while possible, is very unlikely. Fortunately both sexes are known not only of the true *H. armiger* but also of the Chinese *H. Swinhoei*, Peters, ordinarily considered to be synonymous with it, and therefore there can be no question as to the specific distinctness of the new form.

This fine species is readily distinguished from its nearest allies, *H. armiger* and *H. leptophyllus*, by the very different shape of the terminal nose-leaf, by the great development of the prominences on each side of the frontal sac, and by its lesser number of supplementary leaflets. In size it is noteworthy as being only exceeded by three members of the large genus *Hipposiderus*, and it is in fact one of the largest insectivorous bats that have been described for many years.

Vesperugo (*Vesperus*) *Moloneyi*, sp. n.

Vesperus with the tragus extraordinarily short, with the outer upper incisors nearly as long as the inner, and with the anterior lower premolar minute.

Size of body medium, but the extremities so short that the forearm-length makes the species appear to be among the smallest of the genus. Head very broad and flat, much as in *Nycticejus* * or in *V. pachypus*; facial glands swollen, but not raised vertically above the level of the centre of the muzzle. Ears very short, their edges evenly continuous, not emarginate externally either above or opposite the base of the tragus; the small keel usually present just behind the base of their inner margin nearly or quite obsolete. Tragus (see figure) extraordinarily small, quite unlike that of any other member of the group, *its height, measured along its inner edge, less than half its breadth*, its upper and its outer margins rounded; its outer base without any projection. Anterior extremities much reduced throughout, especially distally; the forearm but little more than half of the combined lengths of the head and body, the thumb very short, the two phalanges of the middle finger together only about half the length of the short forearm, and those of the fifth finger less than a fifth of it; finally the usual distal cartilaginous extension of the third finger is nearly obsolete. Hind legs unusually thick and muscular. Calcar feeble, post-calcareal lobule absent. Extreme tip of tail only free from membrane.



Left Tragus of *Vesperugo Moloneyi*, $\frac{2}{1}$.

Fur short, uniformly very dark brown or black above and beneath.

Upper inner incisors long, their tips bicuspid; outer ones

* When showing (Ann. Mus. Genov. (2) ix. p. 88, 1890) that the American *Nycticejus humeralis* could not be separated generically from the Old-World *Scotophilus*, I did not notice that the name *Nycticejus* (1819) was anterior in date to *Scotophilus* (1822). Mr. Blanford has since pointed this out to me; and it is evident that the former name must be used for all the species hitherto called *Scotophilus*.

cylindrical, unicuspid, not reaching quite to the level of the outer cusps of the inner incisors. Upper premolars very close to and but little shorter than the canines. Lower incisors tricuspid, overlapping. Anterior lower premolar very small, scarcely exceeding in height the cingulum of the large posterior one.

Dimensions of the type, a male preserved in spirit:—

Head and body 50 millim.; head, length 16, breadth across muzzle 11; ear, length from base of inner edge 9, length from base of outer 11·5; tragus, length of inner margin 1·0, length of outer margin 3·8, breadth above 1·9, height of base 3·2. Forearm 29 (=1·15 inch); thumb, including claw, 5·5; third finger, metacarpal 29, first phalanx 8·5, second phalanx 7·8; lower leg 11; hind foot, including claws, 8·2; tail 30.

Hab. Lagos, West Africa. One specimen, collected and presented by Sir Alfred Moloney.

This most remarkable species is distinguished by its proportionally large body and head and the reduction in length of all its extremities, including in this term the ears, tragus, wings, legs, and tail. This reduction, combined with the markedly more muscular condition of the legs, no doubt indicates a less exclusively aerial manner of life; and we may be prepared to find when its habits are known that it seeks for its prey creeping about either the trunks and branches of trees or the rocks of cliffs and caves, rather than flying about in the open.

Stenoderma Nichollsi, sp. n.

Most closely allied to *Stenoderma rufum**, Geoff., with which it agrees in the number of its molars ($\frac{3}{3}$) and in the long parallel-sided palatal emargination. It differs, however, in the absence of the remarkable frontal ridges and concavity characteristic of that species and in the very dissimilar proportions of the upper molars.

Comparing the teeth with Peters's beautiful figures, the inner upper incisors are shorter and with more of a tendency to the bicuspidate form found in *S. achradophilum*, Gosse, and figured by Dobson †; the canines and premolars are similar, but the molars are again, while agreeing in number with those of *S. rufum*, more similar in shape to those of *S. achradophilum*; thus $\frac{m.\ 1}{\ }$ is far broader than in *S. rufum*, and extends inwards by nearly half its breadth beyond the level

* Skull and teeth figured by Peters, MB. Ak. Berl. 1876, p. 434, pl. i. figs. 1–7.

† Cat. Chir. B. M. pl. xxviii. fig. 2.

of the last premolar, and $\frac{m.2}{}$ is equally broad. On the other hand, these two molars are not so compressed antero-posteriorly as in *S. achradophilum*, and the internal gap between them is broader. Finally, $\frac{m.3}{}$ is far smaller than in *S. rufum*, not exceeding in transverse section one of the small outer incisors. Lower teeth as in *S. achradophilum*, except for their rather greater size.

Palatal emargination narrow, parallel-sided, extending forwards to the level of the middle of $\frac{m\,1}{}$.

External characters very much as in *S. achradophilum*, except that the colour is darker and more uniform, the head being dull brown, like the rest of the body.

Dimensions of the type, an adult female in spirit:—

Head and body 58 millim.; ear, above crown, 12; forearm 46 (=1·8 inch); lower leg 18.

Teeth: distance from front of canine to back of $\frac{m.2}{}$ 7·0 millim.; palatal breadth, outside $\frac{m.1}{}$ 9·5, inside $\frac{m.1}{}$ 3·9.

Hab. Island of Dominica, West Indies. Collected, under the auspices of the West-Indian Exploration Committee, by Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls, in whose honour I have much pleasure in naming the species.

S. Nichollsi is interesting as being the first of the rare genus *Stenoderma* found in the Lesser Antilles, *S. achradophyllum* being, so far as is yet known, a native only of Jamaica and Cuba, while *S. falcatum* is peculiar to the latter island. The habitat of *S. rufum* is unknown.

LXIII.—*On* Pherusa fucicola, *Leach*, *and the Law of Priority*. By R. I. Pocock.

There are few zoological systematists who can say with Mr. Walker that they have destroyed more species than they have made. For this all carcinologists must be grateful; but most of them will, I think, feel regret at his decision in the case of *Pherusa fucicola*, as set forth in the last number of the 'Annals.' It seems to me that the position he has taken up is on any grounds absolutely untenable; and since he has courteously mentioned my name in connexion with his investigation (although the entire credit of the matter is due to him), it is possible that I may be suspected by some of agreeing with his views on the point. I consequently take this opportunity of repudiating once and for all on my own behalf such a system of nomenclature as that which he adopts, and of attempting briefly to show in what, to my mind, the faults of it mainly consist.