

those who had the good fortune to have an intimate personal knowledge of himself and of his investigations in his study who can at all realize the indefatigable perseverance, the marvellous laboriousness, the most strict conscientiousness, and withal the deep humility of his great mind. Alas! that both my dear friends should have been taken, and their joint monograph on the British Tunicata remain incomplete! At the time of Mr. Alder's death his part was finished, which related to the description and illustration of the generic and specific forms; and the last years of Albany Hancock's life were devoted chiefly to the elaboration of the structure of this most anomalous and highly interesting class. A large portion of the knowledge thus acquired has unfortunately died with him; but we yet hope to see such portion of the anatomy and physiology as relates to the simple Ascidians, together with a monograph of all the species, published under the kindly editorship and careful supervising hand of the man most competent to undertake it—Professor Huxley.

LXV.—*Descriptions of supposed new Birds from the Naga Hills and Eastern Assam.* By Lieut.-Col. H. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN, F.Z.S. &c.

Turdinus nagaënsis, n. sp.

Above dark umber-brown throughout, with no streaking on the feathers of the head. Beneath the same colour, but much paler, with a slight rusty tint shading into and adjacent to the dull whitish centre of breast; chin also whitish.

Irides dark brown; legs and feet light sienna-grey.

Length about 5·7 inches, wing 2·2, tail 2·2, tarsus 0·90, bill at front 0·50, mid toe and claw 0·72, hind toe 0·35, claw 0·3.

This species is very distinct from *T. garoënsis* in its deeper umber coloration and smaller size; particularly is this the case in the size of the legs, feet, and the hind claw. Mr. A. W. Chennell, of the Topographical Survey, obtained this bird in the Eastern Naga hills.

Staphida plumbeiceps, n. sp.

Head ash-grey, purer behind; feathers narrowly edged paler. Back pale olive-brown, a few feathers pale-shafted. Wings umber-brown. Tail darker, the four outer feathers tipped with white, increasing outwards diagonally. Lores pale grey.

The ear-coverts only to just beneath the eye chestnut, the feathers white-shafted. Chin, throat, and all the lower parts white. Flanks pale sepia-grey; under tail-coverts the same, tipped white.

Irides reddish brown. Legs umber.

Length 4·6 inches, wing 2·3, tail 2·05, tarsus 0·7, bill at front 0·3.

This bird is close to *Staphida torqueola*, Swin.; but in that species the chestnut commences at the base of the lower mandible, passes under the eye and round the nape in a broad band of chestnut-brown, and the last three tertiaries are margined white on inner web. This is absent in the Assam bird. Obtained by Mr. M. J. Ogle near Sadya and Brahmakhúnd, Eastern Assam.

In my note-book I find that I obtained one example in the Dikrang valley, Daffa hills, which I shot at camp no. 9; but this was subsequently lost somehow or other, and therefore I did not bring it into the list of birds from the Daffa hills, published in the Journ. Asiatic Society of Bengal.

It is also interesting to record the occurrence near Sadya of *Halcyon pileata* und *Podica personata*.

LXVI.—On British Polyzoa.—Part II. Classification.

By the Rev. THOMAS HINCKS, B.A., F.R.S.

Order INFUNDIBULATA.

Suborder CHEILOSTOMATA.

In attempting the classification of the Cheilostomatous Polyzoa, one of the most important points to be determined is the exact amount of weight which is to be assigned to the colonial habit or mode of growth in constituting the generic groups. Smitt takes the position that the system of classification should be based entirely on the characters of the individual zooecium; and amongst these characters he assigns the first place to the form of the aperture*.

* "Quod ad hunc ordinem (*Cheilostomata*) in subordines distribuentum attinet, principia sequimur, quæ coniecisse videtur primus Milne-Edwards, quum, in adnotationibus ad *Flustras* apud Lamarck, formam zooecii solam esse de Bryozois notam dixit, quæ certo limite genera describeret" (Smitt, "Bryozoa marina in regionibus arcticis et borealibus viventia," Cefv. k. Vet.-Akad. Förh. 1867, p. 468). "In its generic character" (he is speaking of his genus *Hippothoa*) "of course we must cast away the form of the colonial growth, founding it upon the form of the zooecial aperture" ('Floridan Bryozoa,' part ii. p. 40).

I may remark here that Prof. Smitt's method is, of course, inappli-



Godwin-Austen, Henry Haversham. 1877. "LXV.—Descriptions of supposed new birds from the Naga Hills and Eastern Assam." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 20, 519–520.

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