Description of a new Squirrel (Sciurus Gerrardi) *from New Granada.*
By Dr. John Edward Gray, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S.

Mr. Edward Gerrard lately brought to me a Squirrel that he had not been able to identify with any other specimen in the Collection, or with any of the American species lately described, and which he was convinced was distinct from any of the American Squirrels of about the same size in the Museum by the peculiar form of its skull.

I have therefore drawn up a short description of the species, and named it after my assistant, who has done so much to extend the osteological collection in the Museum, and who is so ready to impart his extensive knowledge of Vertebrate animals and their osteological structure to any one who may desire to profit by it.

Sciurus Gerrardi.

Blackish: hairs brown, with black tips, with a broad subapical orange ring; cheeks yellowish brown; fore part of the back, sides of the neck and body, shoulders, and outer side of the fore legs, and front of the hinder legs bright-red bay; feet pale bay; base of the tail blackish, with the hairs slightly varied with pale-orange rings; middle of the tail bright bay, end black; throat from under the eyes, inside of the fore legs, chest, and belly pure white; ears blackish, with very short scattered hairs.

Hab. New Granada. British Museum.

Size and form of the European Squirrel, but the tail longer and the ears not pencilled. The skull is very different from that of *Sc. Langsdorffi*, being small and more lengthened.

The newly born young specimen is coloured precisely like the adult; but the tail is slender, rather depressed, but nearly cylindrical, covered with elongate close-pressed hair.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* March 12, 1861.

On a new Genus of Australian Freshwater Fishes.
By Dr. Albert Günther, For. Memb. Zool. Soc.

Fam. Percidæ. Group Apogonina.

Nannoperca.

Body compressed, oblong, covered with scales of moderate size. Dorsal fins slightly continuous at the base, the first with seven spines. No recumbent spine before the dorsal fin. Three anal spines. Narrow bands of villiform teeth in the jaws, on the vomer and the palatine bones. None of the bones of the head serrated. Branchiostegals six; pseudobranchiæ present. Lateral line none.

Nannoperca australis.

B. 6. D. 7 $\frac{1}{8}$. A. $\frac{3}{7}$. V. 1/5. L. lat. 30. L. transv. 12.

This species resembles a young Perch in general appearance, but is more elongate; the greatest depth of the body is above the root of the ventral fin, and contained four times and five-sevenths in the total length; the length of the head is contained three times and two-thirds in it. The snout is moderately produced, as long as the orbit, with the cleft of the mouth oblique and rather narrow, the

maxillary extending to below the front margin of the orbit. The lower jaw projects beyond the upper. The teeth are villiform, those of the palatine bones minute and forming only a short series. The eye is of moderate size, one-fourth of the length of the head, and much wider than the interorbital space. The scales advance superiorly to between the hind margin of the orbits, and inferiorly to the præorbital. None of the bones of the head are serrated; the præoperculum has two ridges along its margins, like *Apogon*, but the ridges are very close together. The spinous dorsal fin commences somewhat nearer to the snout than to the root of the caudal; the length of the first spine is not quite one-half of that of the second, which is the strongest and longest, its length being one-half of that of the head; the following spines rapidly decrease in length. The soft dorsal fin is slightly continuous with the spinous, both being nearly equal in height; its anterior spine is short, although longer than the last of the spinous dorsal. Caudal fin rounded, its length is contained six times and a half in the total. Anal spines strong, the second and third are nearly equal in length. The root of the ventrals is situated behind that of the pectorals; they do not quite extend to the vent, and are as long as the pectorals. The colour appears to be greenish above, each scale having a darker margin.

Two specimens of this fish, the larger of which is 33 lines long, were received from the Murray River, and, having been given me for determination by Mr. Holdsworth, are now deposited in the British Museum Collection.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* March 26, 1861.

On the Retrograde Metamorphosis of certain Nematode Worms.

By Dr. R. Molin.

In the females of four species of the genus *Hystrichis*, M. Molin describes a phenomenon which he considers as a kind of retrograde metamorphosis—a phenomenon which puts a period to their existence, and which is in relation to the development of the generative organs. The adult and fertilized females constantly hollow out a gallery in the coats of the œsophagus of an aquatic bird. Immediately afterwards there commences in them an extraordinary development of the generative organs. These organs attain such large proportions that the skin of the worm is distended by them, and the animal becomes gradually converted into a sort of vesicle. M. Molin admits that this metamorphosis brings on the destruction of the body of the mother, and that the ovaries with the eggs are thus set free. Lastly, the embryos, on becoming developed, quit the gallery or cyst, which is cicatrized. From the drawings and descriptions of M. Molin, the worm, when distended, appears to retain its intestinal canal. It would seem therefore that there is simply a dilatation of the body of the mother without any true retrograde metamorphosis, unless it be that there is a kind of degeneration of the skin. The fact itself, however, does not thus lose its interest.—*Sitzungsber. der Akad. der Wiss. zu Wien*, xxxviii. p. 706; *Bibl. Univ.* April 20, 1861, *Bull. Scient.* p. 388.