

2. PHASCOLARCTINÆ.

Teeth rooted; superior incisors 3.3; additional premolars absent. Tail rudimentary. Distinct cheek-pouches. Stomach with a cardiac gland. Cæcum very long; commencing colon cæcum-like, both being dilated and provided with numerous longitudinal folds of mucous membrane. Liver very much complicated by secondary sulci; caudate lobe not free; gall-bladder immensely elongated. Lungs with no azygos lobe. Vaginal *culs-de-sac* free.

Phascolarctos.

3. PHASCOLOMYINÆ.

All teeth rootless; superior incisors 1.1; no additional premolars. Tail and cheek-pouches rudimentary. Stomach as in *Phascolarctinæ*. Cæcum short, peculiar. Commencing colon transversely sacculated. Liver somewhat complicated by secondary sulci; no distinct caudate lobe. Lungs with an azygos lobe. Vaginal *culs-de-sac* free.

Phascolomys.

4. On a new Genus of *Timeliidæ* from Madagascar, with Remarks on some other Genera. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Department of Zoology, British Museum.

[Received January 6, 1881.]

(Plate XIX.)

The Rev. Deans Cowan last year forwarded to London a collection of birds, which arrived unfortunately in a bad condition, few specimens having escaped the ravages of insects during the voyage. Amongst the latter, I am happy to say, were a few *Timeline* birds, which have added considerably to our series in the British Museum; and not the least interesting is an example referable to a new genus, which I propose to term

NEOMIXIS, gen. nov.

Not distantly related to *Miwornis*, but easily distinguished by the shape of the bill, which is conical and pointed, with a very sharp culminal ridge, and scarcely any perceptible rictal bristles.

In Madagascar it finds its nearest ally in *Bernieria*, like which genus it has the culmen as long as the tarsus; but the pointed conical bill is very different from the long thin bill of *Bernieria*.

The type is

NEOMIXIS STRIATIGULA, sp. n. (Plate XIX.)

Adult. General colour above olive-green, rather more yellowish olive on the head, lower back, and rump, the hind neck somewhat ashy; lesser and median wing-coverts like the back, the greater

coverts and quills light brown, edged with yellowish olive; tail-feathers light brown, margined narrowly with yellowish olive; lores and a very faintly indicated eyebrow light yellow, in front of the eye a dusky spot; cheeks and ear-coverts yellow, mottled with dusky brown tips to the feathers; under surface of body yellow, passing into white on the centre of the abdomen, the lower flanks light ashy brown; the throat and fore neck streaked with dark brown down the centres of the feathers; the breast mottled with larger centres of dusky brown; under tail-coverts dusky brown, with dull white tips; under wing-coverts and axillaries white washed with yellow, the edge of the wing a little brighter yellow; quills brown below, whitish along the edge of the inner web. Total length 4.5 inches, culmen 0.65, wing 2.0, tail 1.7, tarsus 0.65.

Hab. Fianarantsoa, Madagascar (*Rev. D. Cowan*).

A better arrangement of the genus *Bernieria* and its allies appears to me to be somewhat as follows:—

- a. Culmine tarsum æquante, vel etiam longiore.
 - a'. Rostro brevi, conico, acuto, culmine haud fornicato, tomis integris..... *Neomixis*.
 - b'. Rostro longiore, gracili, ad apicem decurvato et evidenter adunco. *Bernieria*.
- b. Tarsus quam culmen longiore.
 - c'. Vibrissis vix ullis, minimis; fascia parva supra nares, difficile invenienda; tarso integro *Mystacornis*.
 - d'. Vibrissis maximis, usque ad apicem rostri productis; tarsis integris..... *Xanthomixis*.
 - e'. Vibrissis parvis, debilibus, haud ultra nares productis; tarsis integris..... *Crossleyia*.
 - f'. Vibrissis parvis, debilibus, haud ultra nares productis; tarsis evidenter 4-scutatis *Oxylabes*.

The large series of Mascarene *Timeliidæ* now possessed by the British Museum has enabled me to push my studies of these birds much further; and I find that, as in many other cases of Madagascar birds, the *Timeliidæ* of the island not only form an isolated group, but are divisible into several genera, of which the comparative characters are given above.

The following is a list of the species comprised under the above headings:—

1. *Neomixis striatigula*, Sharpe (*vide supra*).
2. *Bernieria madagascariensis* (Gm.).
3. *Mystacornis crossleyi* (Grandid.).
4. *Xanthomixis zosterops* (Sharpe).
5. *Crossleyia xanthophrys* (Sharpe).

[The Museum now contains four specimens of this curious bird in addition to the original type (described, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 76, as *Oxylabes xanthophrys*). The idea has been suggested to me that it is the young bird of some other species; but I think that this is not likely to prove correct, as one of the specimens before me appears to be a nestling. It is duller-coloured than the adults, more of an olive-brown, the head scarcely darker, and the eyebrow almost im-

perceptible. Again, *C. xanthophrys* cannot be the young of *Oxylabes madagascariensis*, because of the different scutellation of the tarsi, while, moreover, we have the young of the latter bird in the British Museum, and it differs only slightly from the old.]

6. *Oxylabes madagascariensis* (Gm.).

7. OXYLABES CINEREICEPS, sp. nov.

Olive-green, with narrow pale shaft-lines; wings and tail olive, the edges to the primaries olive-yellow; head and nape slaty grey, lores dull white; cheeks and sides of face creamy white; ear-coverts slaty grey; throat and fore neck white; rest of under surface of body yellow, olive on the sides; under tail-coverts olive-yellow; thighs olive-brown; under wing-coverts olive-brown washed with fawn-colour; edge of wing yellow; quills light brown below, fulvous along the edge of the inner web. Total length 5.6 inches, culmen 0.55, wing 2.75, tail 2.3, tarsus 0.85.

Hab. Fianarantsoa, Madagascar (*Rev. D. Cowan*).

Notwithstanding the difference in the colouring of the two species, *O. cinereiceps* seems to be strictly congeneric with *O. madagascariensis*.

5. On the Mammals of Gilgit. By JOHN SCULLY.

[Received January 6, 1881.]

The tract of country to be referred to in this paper may be roughly defined as the basin of the Indus river within the limits 35° to $36^{\circ} 30'$ N. lat. and 74° to 75° E. long.; it forms the north-western portion of the territories of the Maharaja of Kashmir. My observations refer principally to the Mammalian fauna of Gilgit, a district which lies nearly due north of Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir, at a distance of about 230 miles by road; but I also include the Astor valley, and Nagar, Hunza, and Yassin, three small States which adjoin Gilgit, and are tributary to Kashmir. My limits are—on the south the Dorikun or Burzil Pass at the head of the Astor valley, on the east the great bend of the Indus near Haramosh, on the north the principality of Hunza, and on the west Yasin.

All this country is highly mountainous, and is intersected by numerous narrow valleys, the streams of which are tributary to the Indus. The lowest valleys are about 4500 feet above sea-level, while the mountain ridges are of great height, with peaks from 15,000 to over 26,000 feet high. The lower parts of the valleys are very barren and arid, their sides being formed by steep bare walls of gneiss; the cultivated portions are scattered and of small extent, on terraces of the river-alluvium high above the main streams, or more generally on alluvial fans at the mouths of lateral ravines. Above 8000 feet the scenery changes greatly, and grass-covered downs and luxuriant pine-forests abound; higher up still we find the region of snow-covered peaks and mighty glaciers.



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