

<i>Dimensions.</i>		millim.
Total length (the tip of the tail is broken off).....		310
From tip of snout to ear-opening		43
„ „ „ fore limb		53
„ „ „ vent		135
Length of fore limb		72
„ „ third finger		17
„ „ fourth finger		19
„ „ hind limb		95
„ „ third toe.....		19
„ „ fourth toe		28

This species is allied to *E. heterolepis*, *E. microlepis*, and *E. præstabilis*, but differs from all three in the higher dorsal crest, from *E. heterolepis* in the scales of the body, which are smaller (about 42 vertically in the present species, and 29 in *E. heterolepis*) and not intermixed with *conical* ones, and in the absence of a second lateral series of large scales; from *E. microlepis* in the larger, slightly or not keeled dorsal scales; from *E. præstabilis* in the shape of the dorsal scales, and especially in the strongly keeled pectoral and ventral ones.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXVI.

Fig. 1. *Enyalius oshaughnessyi*. 1 a, scutellation of the side of ditto.

Fig. 2. Scutellation of the side of *E. microlepis*.

6. Remarks upon the Habits of the Darter (*Plotus ankinga*). By A. D. BARTLETT, Superintendent of the Society's Gardens.

[Received Jan. 6, 1881.]

At a meeting of this Society in 1869 (see P.Z.S. 1869, p. 142) I read a paper upon the habits of the Hornbills, and called attention to the fact that, from time to time, these birds cast up a substance that is found upon examination to be the epithelial lining of the gizzard. I now bring before the Society a notice of another instance of this remarkable habit, in a very different group of birds. A Darter (*Plotus ankinga*), the bird I now speak of, was received on the 18th of July 1880, and since that time has appeared to be in *perfect health*, and has fed regularly. It has thrown up the lining of its stomach on three or four occasions during this period; but unfortunately the keeper, not being aware of the interest that would be attached to the circumstance, and not knowing the nature of the substance, carelessly threw the castings away. I happened, however, to be present when the last sac was thrown up, and secured it for examination, and have handed it over to our Prosector, Mr. Forbes, for that purpose,

This remarkable fact being now known to occur in two widely

separate genera of birds, induces me to believe, that the habit may exist in many other birds and have hitherto been unobserved. In many cases the substance would sink to the bottom of the water, where it would soon decompose; and this may account for its not having been previously noticed.

I feel particularly anxious to call the attention of persons keeping Cormorants, and of those persons visiting the haunts of Cormorants, to this habit, as it is highly probable that this bird does the same thing.

7. Note on Mr. Bartlett's Communication on the Habits of the Darter. By W. A. FORBES, B.A., Prosector to the Society.

[Received February 1, 1881.]

The specimen put into my hands by Mr. Bartlett is a somewhat broken bag-like sac, which is undoubtedly the shed "epithelial" coat of the gizzard of the Darter. Where the "epithelium"¹ is thickest and best developed, at the bottom of the gizzard, the walls have remained intact; but above, where it thins off towards the pyloric and œsophageal openings, they have become broken, so that the sac is widely open here. A small patch of the characteristic hairs (*cf.* Garrod, P. Z. S. 1876, p. 343, pl. xxviii. fig. 2) of the pyloric part of the gizzard has come away with the epithelium; these alone would suffice to indicate the bird whence it was derived. The hard epithelium does not extend above the limits of the gizzard: hence none of the mucous coverings of the proventricular gland or œsophagus has been preserved in the ejected specimen. The outer surface of the cast epithelium is smooth and velvety, and exactly similar in appearance to epithelium that has been peeled off the muscular walls of the gizzard artificially.

A microscopical examination of a part of the cast epithelium shows that it is quite identical in structure with that of the unshed epithelium of the stomach.

I may add that in the stomach of a lately dead example of the species—though not that of the individual which "moulted" its stomach, which is still (February 1) alive and in good health—there is some appearance of a similar "moult" being about to take place, the epithelial layer being easily detached from the subjacent ones, whilst beneath it there is apparently a new, though still very thin, coat of epithelium in course of formation. This appearance is confirmed by sections of the epithelium.

¹ I use this term in the same sense as many previous writers have done, as a convenient term for the object in question, without committing myself to any opinion as to its true nature.—W. A. F.



Bartlett, Abraham Dee. 1881. "Remarks upon the Habits of the Darter (*Ploius anHINGA*).*" Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1881, 247–248.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1881.tb01284.x>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/96698>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1881.tb01284.x>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/73285>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.