

III.—On a New *Parascyllium* from Hobson's Bay. By FREDERICK M'COY, Professor of Natural Science in the Melbourne University, and Director of the Melbourne National Museum.

[Plate II.]

To the Editors of the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,

As only one species of *Parascyllium* is noted in Dr. Günther's Catalogue, I beg to give you a brief description of a different one, not very uncommon near Melbourne.

Parascyllium nuchalis, M'Coy.

Spec. char. Body and fins clouded with two shades of chocolate-brown, with a broad blackish-brown nuchal collar extending from the base of the pectorals to halfway between the eye and the first gill-opening, and two or three very conspicuous large spots of the same dark colour on each of the fins; the whole of the sides and back covered with white spots, smaller and more crowded on the dark nuchal collar; under-side of throat and abdomen pale whitish brown. Mouth nearer the extremity of the snout than to the eye.

Length 2 feet 9 inches; snout to anterior edge of orbit 1 inch, to base of pectoral $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, to origin of ventrals $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches, to origin of first dorsal $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches, of second dorsal $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of anal 20 inches, to caudal 25 inches; girth 7 inches.

This beautiful species is adult at the above size, and is easily recognized by its brown-clouded body, dark, wide half collar, and conspicuous round white spots.

IV.—On the Genera Tremarctos, Gervais (Nearctos, Gray), and Ælurina, Gervais (Ailurogale, Fitz.). By THEODORE GILL, M.D., Ph.D.

IN the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for August 1873 (vol. xii. p. 183) Dr. Gray has differentiated from the genus to which he had formerly referred it (*Helarctos*) the *Ursus ornatus* of Frederick Cuvier, giving to that species the new generic name "*Nearctos*." A distinct subgenus had, however, been long previously proposed for that species by Gervais ('Hist. Nat. des Mammifères,' tome ii. 1855, p. 20), and named by him *Tremarctos*. The name evidently refers to one of the characters mentioned as peculiar—the supra-

condyloid foramen of the humerus, in which it was said to differ from all the other Ursidæ. This group has been adopted as a distinct genus by the author in his 'Arrangement of the Families of Mammals.'

In reference to the statement that the supracondyloid foramen is absent in all other Ursidæ ("qui manque à tous autres Ursidés"), it may be well to recall that it is developed in the humerus of a fossil bear preserved in the palæontological collection of the Museum at Paris, and figured by Cuvier and Blainville (see 'Ostéographie des Mammifères,' *Ursus*, pl. xvii. desc. p. 93); but, as remarked by De Christol and Blainville, that specimen is doubtless exceptional or "monstrous," it being the only one known among hundreds examined exhibiting such a peculiarity. The same bone has been referred to by Dr. John Struthers, in the 'Lancet' (1873, vol. i. pp. 231, 232), in comments upon the hereditary occurrence of a supracondyloid process in Man. Judging by the figure of the humerus of *Tremarctos ornatus* given by Blainville, the supracondyloid foramen appears, however, to be a normal characteristic of that species; but it would be desirable that such supposition should be proved or disproved by the examination of other specimens, and my chief object in this communication is the hope that it may elicit such information.

I venture also to add another reference that has been overlooked by Dr. Gray as well as Dr. Fitzinger. In the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London' for 1867, p. 268, Dr. Gray has proposed a genus *Viverriceps* for several Felidæ, and among them the *Felis planiceps* of Vigors and Horsfield; and in the 'Sitzungsberichte der Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Wien' for 1869 Dr. Fitzinger has based another genus (*Ailurogale*) on the same species. A subgeneric group had, however, long previously been proposed by Prof. Gervais (*op. cit.* p. 87, 1855) for that species, designated "Ailurin" (Latin, *Ælurina*), and distinguished by the double-rooted false molars of the upper jaw. In my 'Arrangement of the Families of Mammals' I have retained both *Ælurina* and *Viverriceps* (restricted) as genera.

V.—*Descriptions of New Genera and Species of Heteromera, chiefly from New Zealand and New Caledonia, together with a Revision of the Genus Hypaulax and a Description of an allied New Genus from Colombia.* By FREDERICK BATES.

[Continued from vol. xii. p. 485.]

HYPAULAX, mihi, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1868, p. 259.

Since the time I established this genus I have assiduously



Gill, Theodore. 1874. "IV.—On the genera Tremarctos, Gervais (Nearctos, Gray), and Ælurina, Gervais (Ailurogale, Fitz.)." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 13, 15–16.

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