

Report for October Meeting, 1856.

The donations received during the last three months are as follow:—

1. Sir J. Brooke, K. C. B., Sarawak: Fine skeletons of a large adult Orang-utan, in addition to the two mentioned in my last Report (p. 469 *ante*). A memoir on these skeletons has already been submitted for publication.*

2. Capt. Berdmore, Schwe Gyen, on the Sitang river, Pegu. A collection of numerous sundries.

Among mammalia, two specimens of a new Shrew (*Sorex fuliginosus*, nobis, p. 362 *ante*),—a *Tupaia* in spirit,—and a skin of *Sciurus keraudrenii*.

Of birds, *Micropternus phaeocephus* in spirit, and numerous specimens of *Emberiza aureola*.

Of reptiles, seven living examples of *Emys ocellata*, D. and B., and one of *Cistudo dentata*; a dried young specimen of the very remarkable *Platyserpon megacephalum*, Gray, previously only known from China; *Emyda punctata*, very small; *Hemidactylus frenatus*; *Ptychocheilus*; *Draco lineatus* (*Dracunculus* apud Gray, a name long previously bestowed on the 'Guinea-worm'); *Calotes mystaceus*; *C. emma*; *Leiolepis reevesii*; *Tiliqua maculata*; *Riopa albopunctata*; *Monitor salvator*; *Lycodon aulicus*; *Leptophis ornatus*; *Dipsos frenzina*, Cantor, *var.*; *Trigonocephalus gramineus*, Mal. *var.*; *Megalophrys guttulata*, *n. s.*; *Rana vittigera*; *R. altilabris*, *n. s.*; *Engystoma* (?) *Berdmorei*, *n. s.*; *R.* —? (young); and tadpoles of probably our new *Rana fusca*, to be described presently; also *Bufo melanostictus*.

Likewise an interesting series of land-shells; and a bottle of insects in spirit.

The novelties and rarities comprised in this collection will be brought under notice together with those presented by Mr. Theobald.

3. W. Theobald, Esq. Junr.; attached to the Government Geological Survey. Another rich collection of sundries, from Mergui and the valley of the Tenasserim river.

Of mammalia, the skeletons of a fine mature male of *Hylobates lar*, and one of *Rhizomys sumatranus*. Sundry *exuvia* of *Presbytis obscura*, Reid (to which *Pr. Barbei*, nobis, may now be definitively referred as a slight variety). Specimens in spirit of *Megaderma spasma*, *Hippodideros murinus*, *Taphozous saccolaimus*, *T. longimanus*, *Nycticeius temminckii*, and *Cynopterus marginatus*; *Sorex murinus* (*verus*),

* *Vide* p. 518, *ante*.

and *S. nudipes*; also *Mus bandicota*, *M. setifer* (?), and *M. berdmorei*, nobis: and frontlet of the Markhor (*Capra megaceros*), from Kashmir, with tensely spiral horns (or which are straight, having a prominent ridge wound round them.)

Of birds, head of *Buceros subruficollis*; and eggs of *Halcyon gubial*, *Merops erythrocephalus*, *Francolinus phayrei*, *Hoplopterus ventralis*,—and also of a reptile, *Gecko verus*.

Of reptiles, shells of *Testudo elongata*, nobis (*J. A. S. XXXII*, 639),* *Emys trivittata*, *E. ocellata*, *E. nigra* (*n. s.*), *E. platynota* (?), var. ? *Cistudo dentata* (adult), and *Tyrsa gangetica* (with also the newly hatched young in spirit),—head of *Crocodylus porosus* (*biporcatus*, Cuv.)—and specimens in spirit of *Leiolepis reevesii*, *Acanthosaurus armatus*, *Calotes mystaceus*, *C. emma*, *Draco maculatus*, *Tachydromus sexlineatus*, *Tiliqua rufescens*, *T. macularia*, *Lygosoma aurata*, *Argyrophis bicolor*, Gray (*Typhlops nigro-albus*, D. and B., 15½ in. long), *Arg. beaminus*, *Xenodon purpurascens*, *Coluber mucosus*, *C. radiatus*, *C. prasinus*,† *Leptophis pictus*, *Dipsas cynodon*, *D. ferruginæa*, Cantor, *Tropidonotus umbratus* (Mal. var.), *Tr. subminiatus*, *Tr. junceus*, Cantor, *Tr. nigrocinctus* (*n. s.*), *Bungarus flaviceps* (rare), *Naja lutescens* (black var., without trace of the spectacle-marking on the body,—below whitish with one dark band underneath the hood), *Trigonocephalus gramineus* (2 vars.), *Hydrus gracilis*, *H. striatus*, *H. nigrocinctus*,—*Polypedates lividus* (*n. s.*), *P. leucomystax* (var.), *Limnodytes erythreus*, *L. nigrovittatus* (*n. s.*), *Rana fusca* (*n. s.*), *Engystoma interlineatum*, *Hyledactylus bivittatus*, and *Bufo melanostictus*.

Of fishes, a curious little *Cobitis*-like *Siluroid*, affined to *Bagrus*, but apparently constituting an entirely new generic form, described neither by Valenciennes nor by Dr. Bleeker; also a small specimen of *Amphipneustes cuchia*, (B. Ham.); and examples of two Bengal species of *Tetraodon*, viz. *T. fluviatilis*, B. Ham. (unique type of *Dichotomystebis*, Bibron, *Rev. et Mag. de Zool.* 1855, p. 279), and *T. cutcutia*, B. Ham. (unique type of *Monotretus*, Bibron, *ibid.* p. 281, and probably of *Leiodon*, Swainson, *Class. Fish.*, 'Nat. Libr.,' II, 194, the species being

* A number of living specimens have since been received from Capt. Berdmore. Colour of naked parts olive-grey, varied with dull pale yellow and with black: head conspicuously dull yellowish-white.

† Of two specimens about equal in length, one (retained by Mr. Theobald) measures 6 ft. 10 in. To measure the other would now be inconvenient, as to remove it from the bottle might perhaps injure the specimen.

also *Leiosomus marmoratus*, Swainson apud Bleeker, *sed loc. non cit.*) The last three species, common in Bengal, were not observed by Dr. Cantor further south, in the Malayan peninsula; and they were obtained by Mr. Theobald in Mergui. The same remark applies to one or two of the reptiles, as especially *COLUBER MUCOSUS*.

Of Mollusca, an extensive collection of land and fresh-water shells, which (together with those presented by Capt. Berdmore from Pegu) has considerably enriched our cabinet, which previously contained few species from that range of country.

Lastly, of Crustacea, a small *SQUILLA*, which approximates the description of *SQ. MICROPHALMA*, M. Edw., *Hist. Crust.* II, 523; but the *griffes* (or seizers) are armed on the last articulation with 5 teeth, the first of which is unusually elongated, and there are also 3 moveable spines towards the base of their penultimate articulation: thorax remarkably short, and much contracted anteriorly: eyes as described of *SQ. MICROPHALMA*; the *cornea* minute: six very slight ridges along the abdomen; and its last segment bearing a mesial ridge, and numerous tubercles more or less united into vermiculated raised lines, with 6 principal spines posteriorly and other and smaller spines between them. Entire length, from ocular peduncles, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. If new, *SQ. BIARMATA*, nobis.

We may now proceed to notice the various *notabilia* contained in the collections presented by Capt. Berdmore and Mr. Theobald.

EMYS NIGRA, nobis, n. s. To judge from the shell alone, this species would seem to be affined to *E. CRASSICOLLIS*; but Mr. Theobald assures us that it is not remarkable for thickness of neck. What appear to be adults, measure from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. long. The young have a prominent mesial ridge above, continued throughout; and two slight and proximate lateral ridges, similar to those of *E. CRASSICOLLIS* but less developed. In the presumed adults these ridges appear to be worn away, as if by attrition; and even the mesial disappears excepting on the last and penultimate of the vertebral plates. Nuchal plate quadrilateral, and broader posteriorly; shewing a distinct ridge in the young: first vertebral elongate-triangular, with base to the front and truncate apex; the next two similar but broader, with anterior base rounded almost to a semi-circle; the fourth more or less hexagonal; and the fifth triangular with posterior base: caudals large and square: posterior marginal plates strongly serrated in the young, with four denticulations on each side, successively diminishing to the middle: of the sternal plates, the third pair are more than twice as large as the second; whereas in *E. CRASSICOLLIS* the second pair are as large as, and often larger, than the third. In the adults, the whole

shell is black, with a slight admixture of whitish underneath: in the young the shell is black above, yellowish-white below, with black radiating from the exterior hind corner of each plate. A common species along the valley of the Tenasserim; but an inhabitant of marshy jungles, rather than of the river.

E. PLATYNOTA (F), Gray: *var.*? Carapax only; the plastron wanting. Length 13 in., by 9 in. Above black, with yellow mesial ridge, which is distinct, though not prominently developed: marginal ridge prominent; and below this the colour is bright yellow, handsomely rayed with black: posterior marginal shields each terminating in an obtuse point, occasioning the hind margin of the carapax to be deeply serrated: nuclei of costal shields placed high, as near to the summit as the middle?*

CISTUDO DENTATA, Gray; *Cyclamys orbiculata*, Bell; &c. A specimen of this was presented by Major Phayre from the Irawadi (p. 481, *ante*); another and small living example, since dead and mounted, by Capt. Berdmore, from the Sitang river; and the shell of an adult, from the Tenasserim, by Mr. Theobald: length of the last 8 in., breadth 6 in., and height $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.

CALOTES MYSTACEUS, D. and B. Upon minutest comparison of Burmese with Cinghalese examples, we can detect not the slightest difference between them.

C. EMMA, Gray. This pretty species, distinguished by its post-orbital spine, is subject to considerable variation of colour. In general, there is a strongly marked broad white or rosy-white lateral band, continued from the setting on of the head to that of the tail; which in some is interrupted more or less, in others scarcely interrupted, by a series of 7 or 8 black transverse bands: sometimes the white longitudinal band is strongly developed, whilst the black transverse bands are scarcely visible; and *vice versa*: and sometimes, again, neither is strongly marked. There is always a black line through the eye, extending to the tympanum; and in general more or less black on the throat, especially in the adult males: but familiar experience of the changes of colouring assumed by the com-

* *GEOMYDA TRICARINATA*, nobis, n. s. A small land Terrapin from Central India (Chaibasa). Shell $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; obovate, broader posteriorly: of a dark reddish-brown colour above, with three yellow longitudinal ridges, which are flat and obtuse; below pale dull-yellow. Claws long, stout, and considerably hooked. Sulae expanded, indication of terrene habits. Dorsal shields hexagonoid; the third and fourth broader than long; the fifth approximating a triangular form, with posterior base: nuclei of costal shields placed high, and traversed by the low lateral ridge.

mon *C. VERSICOLOR* of Bengal demonstrates (as its name implies) the merely transient character of these variations.

TACHYDROMUS SEXLINEATUS, Daudin. This remarkable Lizard, with tail more than twice as long as the head and body, has previously been met with in China, Coochin-china, Java, and Borneo. A specimen procured in Mergui by Mr. Theobald minutely accords with the description by M. M. Dumeril and Bibron in every detail of structure; but the colouring would seem to be unusually dull. We have no doubt respecting the correctness of the identification. Length of specimen $9\frac{1}{2}$ in., of which tail 7 in.

TILIQUA MACULARIA (*Euprepes macularius*, nobis, *J. A. S.* XXII, 652). This species was procured both by Capt. Berdmore and Mr. Theobald; and the habitat formerly given with a note of doubt is probably erroneous. With five specimens before us, we do not hesitate to place it in the genus *TILIQUA*, Gray: where it may be readily distinguished from the common *T. RUFESCENS*, by having the first lateral post-nasal plate scarcely a quarter the size of the second; whereas in *T. RUFESCENS* the same plate is more than half the size of the other referred to. The coloration of the two species is also conspicuously different.*

DIPSAS FERRUGINEA, Cantor, (*vide J. A. S.* XXIII, 293). The range of this species extends from Sikim and Asám to Pegu and Mergui. Its considerable variation of colouring demands notice, and would seem to depend on age. This tree-Snake does not appear to grow beyond 19 or 20 in. long, and then increases only in bulk or thickness. A fine adult procured in Mergui by Mr. Theobald is chiefly blackish above, with a series of large pale (but not strongly contrasting) spots along the spine, more or less double and alternating, but the first three or four from the head are single and mesial: lower-parts pale yellow, with a mesial line of irregular black specks, gradually increasing in number and more confluent posteriorly, until, about the middle of the body, the black predominates over the yellow, and finally leaves but a few yellow specks sprinkled upon the black; throat and sides of face also black, continued over several of the series of abdominal scutæ: head marked as usual, with a pale line proceeding backward from each nostril, the two joining posteriorly to the eye

* Here it may be remarked that a small Monitor procured by Mr. Theobald in the Punjab Salt Range, appears perfectly identical with the *PSAMMOSAUROS SCINCUS*, (Merrem), common in N. E. Africa. We have before remarked this species from Upper Hindustán. A *TORTRIX* or *EYRX*, also, from the Salt Range, seems to be different from the common species or variety of Upper India, *E. INDICA* of Gray.

and abruptly ceasing on the crown; these and other markings variegating a black ground in a manner difficult to describe in few words. Abdomen finely iridescent; and the tail short and suddenly tapering. In a younger specimen, nearly as long but much less thick, the black colouring is considerably less developed, and but few of the pale spots are traceable along the spine: but there is a well defined broad dusky lateral band, and below this another and narrow dark line margining the series of abdominal scutæ. In a young specimen ($12\frac{1}{2}$ in. long), sent from Pegu by Capt. Berdmore, the colouring of the upper-parts is plain dull rufous, with scarcely an obscure trace of markings; and that of the lower is bright opiment-yellow, the surface brilliantly shining as in the others, with minute black specks on the throat and hinder half of body underneath, and a row of small yellow spots bordering the lower jaw, which last are more or less distinguishable in the other specimens. It would seem that the tail of this young Snake was white or whitish when alive, for its terminal four-fifths, abruptly separated: for Capt. Berdmore designates it "a small brick-coloured Snake with a white tail;" and remarks that "it carries this white tail curved up."

TROPIDONOTUS JUNCUS, Cantor, *J. A. S.* XVI, 940: *var. Tr. dipsas*, nobis, *ibid.* XXIII, 297.—*Tr. MACROPS*, nobis, *ibid.*, is nearly affined, but distinct; having a much shorter tail, and wanting the lateral rows of spots on the abdominal *scutæ*; which spots are present in *Tr. PLATYCEPS*, nobis, and also in *HERPETODRYAS HELENA*, (Daudin), which also is considerably affined, but is readily distinguishable by its much smaller eye and less strongly carinated scales. In Burmese specimens of *Tr. JUNCUS*, the neck and first fourth or fifth of the body are of a vivid olive-green approaching to grass-green, marked with a series of mesial black spots more or less distinct; the colour then passes to greyish, and is marked with two alternating lateral rows (one on either side) of transversely elongated white spots, in some very distinct and conspicuous, in others obscure; and these are more or less distinctly continued to the end of the tail: there is also a dark band through the eye, and below this the throat is bright yellow in the young, a streak of the same passing up to meet its opposite upon the nape; this bright yellow gradually passes off to yellowish-white posteriorly, where the green passes to grey above; in some the throat and v-like mark on nape are white, and the latter is more or less imperfect. In the Sikim variety (? *Tr. dipsas*), there is an interrupted dark lateral band continued backward from the nape-mark; and the double series of white spots above it commence from the nape, and are longitudinal, rather than transversely elongated, as in the Burmese race: the

black line through the eye is narrower and more distinctly defined, and is even continued forward round the nose; and the labial plates above and below are more or less black-margined. Whether the two races are local, or merely casual varieties of the same, remains for observation to determine.

TR. NIGROCINCTUS, nobis, *n. s.* Another beautiful species, affined to the last, but at once distinguished from it, structurally, by the extraordinarily large size of its penultimate and ante-penultimate upper labials (posterior to the eye): the occipital plates are also proportionally smaller. Colour, olive-grey above, passing (like the last) to bright green towards the head; and conspicuously marked throughout with a series of about 60 narrow transverse black bands, some perfect, others broken and alternating: head with two broad black lateral streaks, one from behind the eye to the cleft of the mouth, the other below the eye: a narrow and indistinct black band edging the occipital plates posteriorly; and behind this, a broad pale collar, which was probably bright red above in the living Snake; and this red colour would seem to have extended upon the cheeks between the two broad black *striae*: lower-parts white, each *scuta* beginning to be margined with grey from about the twentieth; and this grey gradually darkening posteriorly, until towards and upon the tail it becomes blackish and occupies about half of each *scuta*; besides which a row of small lateral spots may be traced, corresponding with those of the preceding and certain other species. Rows of scales 17: abdominal *scutæ* 160; subcaudal *scutellæ* 81 pairs: length of specimen $26\frac{1}{2}$ in., of which tail $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.

BUNGARUS FLAVICEPS, J. Reinwardt, apud Cantor, *J. A. S.* XVI, 1033. Specimen $46\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, of which tail $7\frac{1}{2}$ in.; the hexagonal row of scales along the spine highly compressed and tectiform. As shewn by the present specimen, Dr. Cantor's supposed distinctions of colouring of the adult and young are rather those of individual variation.*

MEGALOPHYRS GUTTULATA, nobis, *n. s.* A species of remarkable beauty; and belonging to a very different subtype from that to which the great 'edible frog' of Sikim (*M. GIGAS*, nobis, *J. A. S.* XXIII, 299), is referable. Tympanic membrane distinct, though much contracted: fore and hind-limbs subequal; the hind-toes short and but slightly webbed. Length of the larger of two specimens, from snout to vent, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; of extended fore-limb $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.; and of extended hind-limb $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. In the great Sikim *MEGALOPHYRS* (?), the hind-limbs are nearly four times the

* Unfortunately, this rare Snake has received injury from the attacks of ants. When alive, its head and tail were bright red, as Dr. Cantor describes.

length of the anterior limbs; and the hind toes are long, with interdigital membranes well developed. It is as obvious that the present species is a 'Tree-frog,' as that the other is not so: and the proportions of *M. GUTTULATA* would indicate it to be a *crawler*, rather than a *leaper*; whereas *M. (P.) GIGAS* is as obviously a powerful leaper, and as aquatic in its habits as our common 'Golden Frog' (*RANA TIGRINA*). The two specimens of *M. GUTTULATA* presented by Capt. Berdmore were, he remarks, "beautiful creatures of their kind; the colours being bright: the eyes are bright red with a light blue circle round them." These fine colours have disappeared in spirit, but it is easy to perceive that they had been vivid. At present, the back appears of a plumbeous olive-green, with numerous large round spots more or less confluent, of a light dusky colour, the appearance of which may be compared to that of drops of water on an oily surface, tending to unite and flow together: limbs banded with the same colours: the skin of the lower-parts is granulose throughout, and appears to have been orange, marbled and variegated with dusky; one of the specimens having the throat entirely of the latter hue. The tips of the toes are scarcely dilated. Inhabits Pegu.

POLYPEDATES LIVIDUS, nobis, n. s. As compared with the common *P. LEUCOMYSTAX*, this species attains to triple the size, and has the legs and toes proportionally much longer, and the hind-toes are completely webbed (as in *P. MARMORATUS*, nobis, p. 188 *ante*). Length, from snout to vent, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; of extended anterior limb $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.; and of posterior limb $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. General form more gracile, and the muzzle less obtuse, than in *P. LEUCOMYSTAX*. Skin smooth, and slightly granulose only on the hind surface of the thighs. Colour uniform dusky-plumbeous above, probably dull olive-green when alive; below whitish; and the membranes of the hind-toes dusky. A specimen one-fourth the size accords minutely in all other respects: but a number of what Mr. Theobald considers to be the young differ in having the tympanic membrane proportionally much larger, and also much nearer the eye; the general hue being paler, and the upper lip more conspicuously white than in the grown animal. We are satisfied that Mr. Theobald is correct in assigning them to the same species. Inhabits the Tenasserim valley.

LYMNODYTES NIGROVITTATUS, nobis, n. s. In this genus it is not always easy to discriminate between species and varieties; but two very distinct races were obtained by Mr. Theobald, one of which accords with specimens from Arakan and from Dacca, and also with Dr. Cantor's description of *L. BRYTHEUS* (*J. A. S. XVI*, 1262). The other, named as above, has distinctly a more obtuse muzzle, and much smaller hind-feet; the

coloration also being conspicuously different. Colour ruddy-plumbeous above, below albescent, with a broad blackish band extending from the nostril to the base of the hind-limb, which band has merely a slight palish margin above (representing the broad white stripe of *L. BYTHERRUS*), but is bordered below by the subdued white of the under-parts, and in some specimens there are a few dark spots which tend to run together into a line, and so to form a second and narrower dark band from the fore to the hind-limb: posterior surface of fore and hind-limbs much marbled and spotted with black; their anterior surface less so, and the breast would seem in some to be more or less speckled. Length of specimen 2 in., of fore-limb $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., and hind-limb $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., the foot $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. Another closely allied species occurs in *L. MACULATUS*, nobis (*J. A. S. XXIII*, 299), from Ceylon; and this again is distinct in its markings, has the upper lip more projected beyond the lower, and the tympanum is larger and more approximated to the eye. A fourth species (*L. LIVIDUS*, nobis, *ibid.*), also from Ceylon, is again very distinct, and much larger than the others, and this is probably gaily coloured when alive. Our specimen has its thighs broken, which may be presumed to indicate that it is eaten, and was thus crippled to prevent its escape; a cruelty which is practised with other kinds of 'edible frog' by Asiatics. Lastly, Mr. Jerdon describes a small *C. PHILOPHYLLA* (*J. A. S. XXII*, 533), as common in the western forests of the Indian peninsula.

RANA FUSCA, nobis, n. s. Large Frog, of a prevailing dark olive-grey or mud-colour above, white below; and the eye of the adult situate midway between the tympanum and nostrils: in the young (as in other species) the tympanum is placed nearer the eye: male devoid of vocal sacs. Skin subgranulose above and smooth below. A narrow pale dorsal streak in some specimens only. Upper lip black, as also the ridge commencing at the corner of the eye and continued over the tympanum. Some have the upper-parts plain, or with scarcely a trace of variegation: others have a few black spots and marblings; but the limbs are always more or less distinctly banded, and the posterior surface of the thigh is prettily marbled. Toes chiefly white, with dusky membranes. Margin of the lower jaw dusky, interrupted by a mesial and three or four lateral white spots. Length of adult 5 in., of fore-limb $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., and of hind-limb 8 in.: foot $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. The presumed tadpoles are of proportionate size, attaining to 3 in. in length before the anterior limbs make their appearance; and are of a dusky mud-colour, with a large lateral black spot on the body, and series of 3 or 4 smaller black spots along the sides of the tail. This species is common in the Tenasserim valley, and is eaten by

the natives: accordingly, some of the specimens under examination have the thighs, and others the legs, broken. The presumed tadpoles are from Pegu.

R. ALTILABRIS, nobis, n. s. A much smaller species than the preceding, with the hind-limbs proportionally shorter: the eyes small and elevated; and the vertical breadth from the eye to the mouth about double the usual proportion. A line drawn from the nostril to the middle of tympanum would pass under and not bisect the eye. Colour livid-dusky above, white below, freckled with black specks on the throat and sides, and on the anterior margins of the limbs: lips banded with dusky; and the limbs very obscurely banded. Length of specimen $2\frac{3}{4}$ in.; of fore-limb $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; and of hind-limb $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.: foot $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; and distance from eye to margin of lip $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Inhabits Pegu.*

ENGYSTOMA (?) *BEEDMOREI*, nobis, n. s. This is not a true *ENGYSTOMA*; but we have no means of referring it to its proper genus. The fore-limbs are small and slender,—the hind enormously developed, with fully webbed toes: head small, and no external tympanic membrane. Length $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., of fore-limb $\frac{1}{2}$ in., and of hind-limb $2\frac{3}{4}$ in.; the foot $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. Colour dusky above and on the throat; rest of lower-parts reddish-white: some black spots on the sides, and interrupted bands on the limbs. In young individuals, a dusky bottle-like mark appears on the upper-parts, with the neck of the bottle, extending from between the eyes to between the shoulders: in adults this becomes inconspicuous, but is distinctly traceable. Apparently a common species in Pegu.

ENGYSTOMA INTELINEATUM, nobis, J. A. S. XXIII, 732. The variation of colour in this species is extraordinary. In a female with ova, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, with hind-limb $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., the markings are as formerly described, only they have become much less distinct, while a great pale-edged black spot has become intensely developed, adjoining the base of each thigh above: in the former specimen, these black spots may be seen in process of development, at the ends of the two streaks which diverge from between the shoulders. In a male, the entire upper-parts are pale and have a rosy tinge, with the same black spots conspicuously developed, while the remains of the longitudinal strise are barely traceable. All are probably very beautifully coloured when alive.

4. F. Skipwith, Esq. C. S. A small collection of sundries, from Cherra Punji in the Khásya hills; and some good land-shells from Sylhet. Among the Cherra specimens are three species of Mice in spirit, all of

* *R. robusta*, nobis, J. A. S. XXIII, 298, is (we are now satisfied) a phase of *R. CUTIFORA*, D. and B.

which appear to be undescribed; also *SOBEX GRIFFITHII*, Horsfield (erroneously assigned by that gentleman to Afghánistán; being identical with the supposed *S. MURINUS* *apud nos*, p. 28 *ante*; and the true *S. MURINUS* having now been presented to our museum from the Tenasserim valley by Mr. Theobald):—of reptiles, *ARGYROPHIS BRAMINUS*, *DRYINUS FRASINUS*, and the young of the fine *COLUBER NIGROMARGINATUS*, nobis (*J. A. S. XXIII*, 290), a species previously received only from the vicinity of Darjiling.

The three species of Mice from Cherra may be thus characterized.

MUS GLIROIDES, nobis, *n. s.* This has very much the aspect of the British Dormouse (*MYOXUS AVELLANARIUS*); but what little remains of the tail of the only specimen sent is nude, and the colouring is much less bright, though inclining to the same hue. It would seem to represent a very distinct division of the great genus *MUS*; but the specimen is evidently young, and more and better examples are needed for a satisfactory examination. Fur exceedingly dense and fine, nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long upon the back, and of a light brown colour tinged with fawn externally, the piles dusky-ash for the basal two-thirds or more: lower-parts white, very faintly tinged with fawn; the white purest about the lips and chin: whiskers long, copious and fine (like those of *MYOXUS AVELLANARIUS*); feet large, and clad scantily with white hairs; but a distinct dark brown mark upon each hind-foot, reaching almost to the division of the toes: ears rather small, ovoid and naked. Length of head and body 2 in.; tail ——— P; ears posteriorly $\frac{1}{4}$ in.; and tarse $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

M. BRYTHROTIS, nobis, *n. s.* Another and very different form of Mouse from the last, and equally from the common house Mouse. Length of head and body $2\frac{1}{4}$ in.; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$ in., and consisting of about 26 vertebræ: ears small and hairy, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long externally: hind-foot and claws $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Fur long and very dense; of a rich dark brown colour, grizzled, and brightly tinged with rufous or rufo-ferruginous towards the tail and upon the ears conspicuously: lower-parts albescent, tinged with fawn: feet with brown hairs upon their upper surface; and the tail considerably hirsute. One specimen only received.

M. CUNICULARIS, nobis, *n. s.* A small field (?) Mouse remarkable for its ample ears, and tail shorter than the head and body. Length of head and body $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.; of tail $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.; ears posteriorly $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; and hind-foot $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Colour of a wild Rabbit (*LEPUS CUNICULUS*) above, below white; and the feet with brownish hairs above, but with white hairs upon the toes: tail conspicuously ringed, the setæ minute and inconspicuous. A dozen specimens are sent of this species, some of which are more or less injured.

5. R. W. G. Frith, Esq. Kulneah, Jessore. Also a collection of sundries preserved in spirit: comprising two Bats, *KERIVOUA PICTA* (fine) and *NYCTICEJUS TEMMINCKII*;—the following birds remarkable for the locality—*GARRULAX squamatus*, *IOLIS virescens*, and *HEMIXOS FLAVALLA*, with the curious young of *CENTROPUS RUFIPENNIS*, and those of *NETTAPUS COBOMANDELIANUS*; of snakes—*BUNGARUS ANNULARIS* (small, and bottled while in the act of swallowing a *TROPIDONOTUS STOLATUS*), *VIPERA RUSSELLII*, *XENODON PURPURASCENS* (fine), the common *LYCODON AULICUS*, *CALAMARIA SAGITTATA*, and a remarkably beautiful specimen of *DIPSAS TRIGONATA*, and the young of *HYDRUS STRIATUS*; frogs—*POLYPEDATES LEUCOMYSTAX* (var.), *HYLEDACTYLUS BIVITTATUS* (beautifully marked variety), and an interesting series of the tadpoles of *RANA VITTIGERA*;*—fish—*SYNGNATHUS CUNCULUS*, B. Ham.; and of insects—

* In Dr. Cantor's 'Catalogue of the reptiles inhabiting the Malayan peninsula and islands,' (*J. A. S.* XVI, 1060), *R. RUGULOSA* and *R. VITTIGERA*, Weigmann, are placed as synonymes of *R. TIGRINA*. This is a mistake. Neither of the former appears ever to exceed in magnitude the British *R. TEMPORARIA*; and *R. VITTIGERA* (v. *R. assimilis, robi, passim*), is readily distinguished at any age by its semi-palmated hind-feet, the inter-digital membranes of which are not more developed than in our common Tree-frog (*POLYPEDATES LEUCOMYSTAX*). In accordance with this structure, it is decidedly less aquatic in its habits than the others are, and is found further away from water, under shelter of low herbage and growing crops, where it can derive the necessary moisture from the night-dews. It is as common as the great *R. TIGRINA*, in the vicinity of Calcutta. *R. RUGULOSA* = *R. Leichenaultii*, D. and B. *apud* Cantor, *sed nec apud* Jordon (at least Mr. Jordon sent to our museum a different and much larger species by that name many years ago), v. *R. bengalensis*, Gray. *apud nos (passim)*. We have not observed this species wild, but have occasionally received a lot of living adults taken in the neighbourhood. Some are distinctly marbled and variegated when alive, others not so; which is at variance with Dr. Cantor's statement. The pale dorsal line seems never to occur in this species; and is as often absent as present in *R. VITTIGERA*: but in *R. TIGRINA* it appears to be constant. Our largest male of *R. TIGRINA* measures—head and body 7 in., and extended hind-limb 9 in. Though so common, we have never remarked the tadpoles of *R. TIGRINA*; but the young frogs, measuring—head and body but $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $\frac{3}{4}$ in., are common. At any age, this species is at once distinguished by its more gracile form, by the considerably less obtuse shape of its muzzle, and by the brilliancy of its colouring when alive. Its agility is remarkable; often taking several long lapses in rapid and continuous succession, making always for the water, and not plunging directly into it like *R. TEMPORARIA*, but taking two or three successively diminishing springs along its surface and then diving below. It is further remarkable for its extraordinary

the larva and pupa of SATURNIA ATLAS, and various other larvæ, &c., of more or less interest.

6. J. Bedford, Esq. Specimens of SULA FIBER and ANOUS STOLIDUS from the vicinity of N. Zealand.

7. Capt. C. C. Beaumont. A few specimens of fish caught in the Pilot's ridge, Lower Hugli. They consist of TRIACANTHUS ACULEATUS (remarkably fine), TETRODON LUNARIS, MESOPRION JOHNIL, CORVINA CHAPTIS, and a CARANX (undetermined).

8. Capt. Jethro Fairweather. Two fine specimens of OSTRACION TURBITUS, L. (genus *Tetrasomus*, Swainson), from the vicinity of Muscat. Capt. Sherwill also presented, some time ago, a fine specimen of the curious little OSTR. DIAPHANUS, Schneider, from the C. G. Hope.

E. BLYTH.

LIBRARY.

The library has received the following accessions during the month of September last.

Presented.

Selections from the Records of the Government, N. W. Provinces, Vol. I. *Agra*, 1855, 8vo. — BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Selections from the Records of the Madras Government, No. X. Reports on Important Public Works, for 1852. — BY THE BENGAL GOVT.

A Guide to Analysis in Geological and Agricultural Chemistry. By an Officer of the Bengal Engineers, *Calcutta*, 1855, 8vo. — BY THE SAME.

Recueil des Actes de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences, Belles-lettres et Arts de Bordeaux ; seizième année, 1854, 3 Trimestre. — BY THE ACADEMY.

Beretning om Fante-eller Landstrygerfolket in Norge. Af Gilbert Sundt. *Christiania*, 1850, 12mo. — BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CHRISTIANIA.

Beretning om Bodsfønglets Orksomhed i aact 1851-52. *Christiania*, 1854, 8vo. — BY THE SAME.

Pharmacopœa Norvegica Regia auctoritate edita. *Christiania*, 1854, 8vo. — BY THE SAME.

Klinik over Hudsygdommene og de syphilitiske, Sygdommei 1852, ved W. Boeck. *Christiania*, 1854, 8vo. pamphlet. — BY THE SAME.

habit of preying upon small birds, as was first noticed by T. Wright, Esq. of Saharanpur (*Calc. Journ. N. H.* III, 284), and of which two instances have since come to our knowledge, one of them contributed by our late Secretary, Mr. Grote. The smallest fully-formed frogs of *R. VITTIGERA* measure from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. from muzzle to vent; and of this size many will be found with tail in process of absorption. We know of only these three species of true *RANA* in L. Bengal.