Annals and Magazine of Natural History

Series 1

ISSN: 0374-5481 (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah07>

X.—Excerpta Zoologica, or abridged Extracts from Foreign Journals

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To cite this article: Dr. Felix von Bærensprung (1842) X.—Excerpta Zoologica, or abridged Extracts from Foreign Journals, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 10:62, 47-49, DOI: [10.1080/03745484209445193](https://doi.org/10.1080/03745484209445193)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03745484209445193>

Published online: 04 Dec 2009.

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it is not *Mougeotia glutinosa* in an imperfect condition, is proved first by the smaller diameter of its filaments, but more especially by the position of the angles of flexion, these being placed indifferently on either side of the filaments, and not on one side, as would be the case were the filaments intended to unite with each other, so that this arrangement of the angles of the cells forms a positive obstacle to their union; for even were the cells all of the same length, which they are not, it would still be impossible for the angles of one filament to correspond so as to unite to form the sporangium with those of another filament: and that the species is in itself perfect and distinct in the condition indicated in the definition above, is established by the invariable presence of spores in all the filaments and the non-union of these.

Found in great abundance in ponds in some of the brick fields near Notting Hill.

The genera *Zygnema*, *Mougeotia*, and *Tyndaridea* merge through certain species into each other. Thus the genus *Zygnema* passes into the genus *Mougeotia* through *Zygnema curvatum*, this having relation with the one by its spiral tubes, and with the other by its angular mode of conjugation; and the genus *Mougeotia* into the genus *Tyndaridea* through the species regarded with doubt as the *Conjugata gracilis* of Vaucher, in which the cells are at first filled with endochrome, as in *Mougeotia*, which subsequently becomes divided into two roundish masses, as in the species of the genus *Tyndaridea*. This transition of one genus into the other does not, I think, affect the validity of either.

Accurate figures of all the above species have been preserved, as well as of those already described in British works, and all drawn to the same scale.

X.—*Excerpta Zoologica, or abridged Extracts from Foreign Journals.* By Dr. FELIX VON BÆRENSPRUNG.

To Richard Taylor, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

ANXIOUS on quitting Germany to possess myself as soon as possible of all information connected with physiology and natural history, and aware from experience of the difficulty of procuring many of the journals, and more especially the dissertations published in that country, some of which are of great value, I requested my friend Dr. F. von Bærensprung to forward to me short notices of what appeared from time to time. I have no doubt that these may be of as much interest

to some of the readers of the 'Annals' as to myself, and have therefore put them into English in order to place them at your disposal.

As many of the extracts may have a relation to papers previously published, but which have not been taken notice of in this country, I will endeavour to select some few passages which will bring the information on the subjects of which they treat down to the date of the notices communicated.

Soley Terrace, Pentonville.

Yours truly,
W. FRANCIS, Ph. D.

ENTOZOA.

THE observations on intestinal worms are becoming daily more numerous, and all tend to show decidedly that there are yet many profound and dark mysteries, especially with regard to their metamorphoses and migrations, which have still to be unveiled.

Eschricht in a valuable memoir 'On the Origin of Intestinal Worms,' wholly rejects the notion of a *generatio æquivoca*, and maintains that intestinal worms originate in every case from individuals of similar genera; otherwise for what purpose would be the immense masses of eggs and young in the *Ascarides* and Tape-worms? In what form the intestinal worms find their way into other animals, it is not yet possible to say; but, as an answer to this question in part, it is very important to know that these creatures have recently been observed to undergo metamorphoses and to change their locality: we know of *Ligula* and *Bothryocephalus solidus*, that they only thrive and develop perfectly when they have passed from one animal into another. The observation that many fish have worms in their flesh only at certain periods of the year, seems likewise to indicate such migrations among Entozoa*. Eschricht moreover regards, as of much importance, the question whether worm-diseases are contagious, as an explanation of the manner in which the contagion takes place can only be attempted when such is ascertained.

M. Streckeisen has communicated to the Naturalists' Society of Basle a notice in which he states that he had observed the number of Entozoa in the intestinal canal of several animals to decrease with the commencement of winter, and was thence led to conclude that most intestinal worms are annual, dying off towards winter, and being subsequently reproduced by eggs. This observation agrees perfectly with those of Eschricht, and we are now able to assert that the various periods of the year exercise an essential influence on the increase and decrease of Entozoa.

Prof. Mayer in Bonn (Müll. Archiv, 1842, p. 212. pl. 15.) found a

* In Copenhagen, for instance, it is a common saying that no cod is fit to eat in those months which have no *r* in them, as their flesh then contains worms. Eschricht examined *Gadus Callarias* frequently in the months of May, June, July and August, and found *Echinorhynchi* in their flesh. Bearing in mind these facts, and the discoveries of Miescher, which will be subsequently communicated, there can scarcely be any doubt as to the migrations of the *Echinorhynchi*.—W. F.

Tetrarrhynchus inclosed in a distinct cyst beneath the peritoneal covering of the intestinal canal of a young *Testudo Mydas*, which confirms the view that the *Cestoidea* and *Cystica* are not essentially distinct, but can only be sections of the same family. Mayer calls this worm *Tetrarrhynchus cysticus*. Dr. Peters, in a note to the memoir in question, having compared it with Rudolphi's original specimen, pronounces it to be identical with *Tet. macrobothrias*.

Dr. Valentin (Müll. Arch. 1841, p. 435) found in the blood of *Salmo fario* a number of microscopical Entozoa possessing lively motions, effected by means of several variable appendages to one of the sides. Gluge has detected more recently a similar animal in the blood of a frog (ib. 1842, p. 140).

Vogt (ib. 1842, p. 189. pl. x.) has published some contributions to the history of the development of the *Filaria*. He found in the blood of several frogs a number of small worms resembling *Filaria*. In the same frogs were noticed in the ventral cavity several brown fibrous cysts, which were however all empty. In several other frogs were similar cysts filled with young *Filaria*, but in the blood none of these animals could be detected. In another frog several large *Filaria*, more than an inch in length, were situated in the ventral cavity. In the female sexual parts of these, Vogt found embryos which agreed in size and in form with the animals occurring in the blood. From these observations he considers himself justified in drawing the following conclusions: the young are deposited by the mother in the ventral cavity, bore their way into the vessels, circulate for a time with the blood, and are then deposited at suitable places for their development,—the viscera. From the inflammation of the tissues originate round about them fibrous cysts, in which they lie for a time, and then penetrate into the ventral cavity, and the young there produced by them now commence the same course of life.

ACARUS FOLLICULORUM.

Simon has described in Müller's Archiv, 1842, p. 278, an *Acarus* which lives in the diseased and normal hair-sacs of man. He calls the animal for the present *Acarus folliculorum*, from its occurring in the so-called comedones, diseased hair-sacs (*acne punctata*), which are frequent about the nose and mouth. It was noticed not only on corpses, but also on several healthy persons. Of ten living persons examined, it was found on three perfectly healthy and cleanly persons. It is on an average $\frac{1}{10}'''$ long, and $\frac{1}{30}'''$ broad, and occurs from two to thirteen in each comedon. Its motions are sluggish, and rarely for the purpose of changing its locality. The animal evidently belongs to the *Acari*; the parts of the mouth consist of a snout, the biarticulated palpi, and smaller bristle-shaped mandibles. The anterior part of the body is provided with four pairs of feet, which are three-jointed, and have three claws affixed to the last joint. Four distinct forms have been observed, probably different stages of development of the animal; the first is characterized by the presence of three pairs only of feet, while the other three forms have four pairs, and only differ by the relative size of the abdomen. At times heart-shaped bodies were met with, which Simon considers to be the eggs.

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