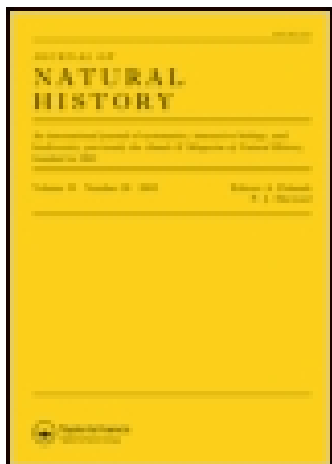


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On *Leskia mirabilis*

Dr. J.E. Gray F.R.S.

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statement no less novel than true. Yet a moment's reflection will show that a country abounding in wolves, foxes, hyænas, antelopes, bovine antelopes, and gazelles, bustards and sandgrouse, can scarcely be a part of the Malay or so-called Indian zoological province, where not a single representative of one of these animals exists. In this very instance, the squirrels attributed in error to India proper belong to a group shown by Mr. Blyth (Cat. Mam. Mus. As. Soc. p. 101, note) to be peculiar to the Indo-Chinese and Malay countries, and foreign to the peninsula of India with Ceylon. And that this most important fact of the mixture of African and Malay forms, the former prevailing in the plains, the latter in the hills, and perhaps on the Malabar coast of the Indian peninsula, is not recognized generally by European naturalists, I believe to be mainly due to the careless way in which specimens are labelled "India," when in reality they come from other parts of South-east Asia.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

Aden, Dec. 15th, 1867.

WILLIAM T. BLANFORD.

Preservation of Objects of Natural History.

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

GENTLEMEN,—I am not aware whether the following practical hint on the preservation of natural-history objects in glycerine is known or not; but, taking the risk of its being known, as it is a useful one, I send it for insertion in the 'Annals' if it be worth anything.

The specimens are to be soaked thoroughly for some days in the glycerine, the glycerine is then to be poured off, all but some five or six drops, and the bottle is to be well corked. I have by me some specimens of a species of *Vaginulus*, from Mauritius, which were, by accident, prepared in this way, and they look now (nearly one year since they were preserved) as fresh as they were on the next day after they were collected.

Of course the chief value of this method consists in its economy: and none who have tried glycerine as a preserving medium, but, I should think, would prefer it to alcohol; but the expense has hitherto been a bar to its common use.

I am, your obedient Servant,

WILMOT H. T. POWER,

Portland, Dorsetshire.

Assistant-Surgeon, 13th Light Infantry.

On Leskia mirabilis. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Professor Lovén has received some specimens of this interesting Echinoderm, which I first published in the second series of this Journal, vol. vii. p. 134, and figured in the Catalogue of the Recent Echinidæ or Sea-eggs in the British Museum, t. 4. f. 4. They were obtained by Mr. Kinberg in the Indian seas between Singapore and Batavia. Dr. Lovén, in a paper in the Proceedings of the Swedish Academy for 1867, confirms the opinion that I expressed in the Museum Catalogue, that it is intermediate between the Spatangoid

Echinidæ and the fossil Cystidea of Von Buch, which are fossils chiefly confined to the Silurian region. Professor Lovén describes the animal at great length, and figures the mouth and vent; and he proposes to form for it a new section of Echinodermata, for which the name *Palæostomata* is proposed. The name *Leskia*, which I gave to the genus in honour of Leske, the echinodermist, had already been used for a genus of mosses and for one of Diptera. Prof. Lovén, being adverse to the changing of my name, suggested that I should give the genus another one, when he was in London; but the subject was forgotten. I would therefore now propose that *Leskia* be changed to *Palæostoma*.

Macacus lasiotus, a new Ape from China.

The Zoological Society has just received an interesting new Ape from Szechnen, in the interior of China, intermediate in appearance between the Tailless Ape of North Africa and the Rhesus Monkey.

Macacus lasiotus.—Tail none; ears ovate, exposed, and covered with hair; fur yellow olive, redder behind and greyer beneath; skin near callosities crimson; face whitish, with a small red spot on the outer side of each orbit. *Hab.* China.—J. E. GRAY.

Additions to the Zoological Collection in the British Museum.

The Zoological Collection in the British Museum has received a million of specimens since 1837, when the registration of the specimens was commenced under the charge of the present keeper, Dr. Gray. The specimens have almost all been acquired by purchase; and they have invariably been selected, primarily, to complete the series of specimens of each class, and especial trouble has been taken to acquire the original type specimens from which the species have been described, and, secondly, to show the geographical range of each species, taking great care to prevent the collection being encumbered with any useless duplicates. The average yearly increase has been about 36,000 specimens.

On Pteronura Sanbachii, an Otter from Surinam.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

The British Museum has lately received a large female Otter with its cub, from Surinam. It is a fresh specimen of the animal that was described and figured many years ago in this Journal as *Pteronura Sanbachii* from a young specimen in the Museum of the Royal Institution, Liverpool, which has remained unique until the present time. The sides of the tail and feet in the Liverpool specimen had been artificially depressed and unduly stretched out by the preserver. In the natural state the tail is rounded and only marked with a rounded ridge on each side. The Surinam Otter has a hairy nose, large feet with bald soles, a thick, rather depressed, tapering tail, with a subcylindrical raised border on the middle of each side, which is covered with hair like the rest of the tail, and a large tuft of hair