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XXI.—Note on Mus Burtoni, Thos

Oldfield Thomas

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specimen; but as I had skinned this latter more than six months before, the recollection is probably of little value. The measurements have unfortunately been lost with the skin, to which they were tied.

"I know nothing of its habits; but the natives say it occurs only in the reed- and sedge-covered swamps, which are here very numerous, owing to the windings of the stream."

The Milk-dentition of Aulacodus.

In connexion with the working out of the above, an examination of the teeth of *Aulacodus* at different ages has been made, and this has been rewarded by the discovery, in a foetal specimen about 110 millim. in length, with a basal length of 34 millim., of minute and quite rudimentary milk-teeth fixed in the gum just above each of the premolars. This discovery confirms the usually accepted homology of the last-named teeth and also bears out the original suggestion of Schlosser* that the milk-teeth are shed in extreme youth, a suggestion which he afterwards unfortunately withdrew in favour of the theory that there is an ordinary tooth-change, the milk and permanent teeth being very like each other, except that the lower milk-teeth are more complicated than their successors. This error is evidently due to his having been deceived by the great difference between worn and unworn permanent teeth. This latter view is, of course, now finally disproved.

The contrast between *Hystrix*, with its long persistent ^{mp.} 4, and *Aulacodus*, with its rudimentary and early shed one, is very striking.

Hensel † has recorded his failure to find any trace of rudimentary milk-teeth in *Phyllomys* and *Dactylomys*, and, to the best of my belief, they have not hitherto been observed in any members of the subfamily Echinomyiinae.

XXI.—*Note on Mus Burtoni, Thos.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

IN the 'Annals' for 1892 ‡ I described a West-African mouse under the above name; but Prof. T. Tullberg, of Upsala, who has himself given a most excellent account § of

* 'Palæontographica,' xxxi. p. 131 (1885). See also Forsyth Major, Atti Soc. Ital. xv. p. 5 (1872).

† Abh. Ak. Berl. 1872, p. 53.

‡ (6) x. p. 182.

§ "Ueber einige Muriden aus Kamerun," Ges. Wiss. Upsala, 1893.

the anatomy of the species under the heading of *Mus maurus*, Gray, has kindly drawn my attention to the fact that Mr. Ramsay had already described an Australian "*Mus Burtoni*"*, so that the name of the African one must be changed.

I would therefore suggest for the latter the name of *Mus Tullbergi*, in recognition of Prof. Tullberg's valuable paper on the Muridæ of the Cameroons, where this species appears to be so common.

XXII.—*Preliminary Notice of South-American Tubificidæ collected by Dr. Michaelsen, including the Description of a Branchiate Form.* By FRANK E. BEDDARD, M.A., F.R.S.

THE Oligochaeta of which I give a preliminary account in the following pages were collected by Dr. Michaelsen in South America. The material was, of course, excellently preserved, and I am able therefore to give, I trust, an accurate account of the principal structural features of the new forms.

The bulk of the aquatic species which he collected prove to belong to the family Tubificidæ, and they are all new species, four of them representing a new and evidently highly characteristic South-American genus. So far as I am aware there is nothing known about the aquatic worms of this part of the world, save a few notes on an *Æolosoma* and Naids by Frenzel† in a paper devoted to the Protozoa met with in the Argentine, and the description by myself‡ of two aquatic members of the genus *Acanthodrilus* from the Falkland Islands and of a new genus, *Kerria*, also referable to the Acanthodrilidæ, from the upper reaches of the Pilcomayo River, and, lastly, the description of "*Mandane stagnalis*" by Kinberg, from the same continent, and of one or two forms by Schimarda. The collection contains a few Naids, not sexually mature, and one or two Enchytræids. I have not yet subjected these to a careful examination. The Tubificidæ comprise five species, of which four, as already stated, belong to a new genus, for which I proposed the name *Hesperodrilus* in a note published in a recent number of 'Nature'§. The fifth species I call

* Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. (2) ii. p. 553 (1887).

† "Untersuchungen über die mikroskopische Fauna Argentinien's," Arch. f. mikr. Anat. xxxviii. p. 1.

‡ "Contributions to the Anatomy of Earthworms &c.," Quart. Journ. Micr. Sci. xxx. p. 421: and "On some new Species of Earthworms from various parts of the World," Proc. Zool. Soc. 1892, p. 678 &c.

§ Jan. 25th.