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On "le Rat de Madagascar"

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neutral territory is produced, in which the conditions of the arctic province, scarcely, if at all, affected by the Gulf-stream, may meet more or less with those of the boreal province; whilst boreal animals may the more easily be carried northwards to Nowaja-Semlja from the neighbouring Scandinavian coasts, as the Gulf-stream passing by the latter carries them to this island.

The following summary furnishes evidence of this. In it I have referred only to those animals of whose distribution in the northern sea we are accurately informed.

There have been found on the shores of Nowaja-Semlja:—

I. Animals which were known only as arctic:

Castalia arctica, Mlmg., Spitzbergen. *Nereis zonata*, Mlmg., Spitzbergen and North Greenland. *Euchone analis*, Kr., Spitzbergen and Greenland. *Chone Duneri*, Mlmg., Spitzbergen. *Asteracanthion grönlandicus*, Steenstr., Greenland. *Myriotrochus Rinkii*, Steenstr., Greenland.

II. Animals which were known only as boreal, or which had their northern limit of distribution in the boreal province:

Evarne impar, Johnst., Iceland, Norwegian, English, and French coasts. *Pista cristata*, Müll., Norwegian and English coasts. *Euchone papillosa*, Sars, Norway.

III. Animals found everywhere in the northern sea:

Harmothoe imbricata, Linn. *Pholoe minuta*, Fab. *Lumbriconereis*. *Cirratulus cirratus*, Müll. *Amphitrite cirrata*, Müll. *Terebellides Strömii*, Sars. *Priapulus caudatus*, Lam. *Alcyonidium gelatinosum*, Linn.

Here also must be placed *Erigone longipalpis*, Sund., which, as Dr. Koch kindly informs me, has been observed in England, occurs in Sweden, and has been found in Spitzbergen. *Bdella arctica*, Thor., appears to be widely distributed in high northern latitudes, and to occur particularly abundantly in Greenland.

As regards the animals collected on the coast of Finmark, I have only to remark that among them there are some which have hitherto been known only from more northern coasts, such as:—*Scione lobata*, Mlmg., Spitzbergen and Greenland; *Phascolosoma boreale*, Kef., Greenland; *Ophiocten sericeum*, Forb., Ljungm., Polar America, Greenland, and Spitzbergen.—*Sitzungsber. phys.-med. Soc. zu Erlangen*, January 12, 1873.

On “*Le Rat de Madagascar*.”

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

Buffon, in the third volume of the ‘Supplement’ to the ‘Histoire Naturelle,’ p. 49, t. xx., describes and figures “*le Rat de Madagascar*” from a specimen that lived several years in the collection of Madame la Comtesse de Massam. This figure has been referred to the *Lemur murinus* of Gmelin and to several other nominal species.

Unfortunately the size of the animal is not mentioned; but if the figure is of the size of the living specimen there can be little doubt

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that it is the same as a small Lemuroid in spirits that we have lately purchased, labelled "La plus petite Macque de Madagascar entre Manham et Ténériffe."

It agrees with Buffon's figure in all particulars, especially in the acuteness and prominence of the nose beyond the lips. As the animal has only been described from a stuffed specimen, I may add:—The muzzle naked, having a central longitudinal groove on the underside to the border of the lip; the whiskers are long; the ears are rather large, about half the length of the head from their front edge, rather naked, with short close hairs on the outer surface. The hind legs and feet are strong.

The head is $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch long, the body $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The tail is cylindrical, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches long, covered with close hair, and with scattered, longer, soft hair near the end. The hind leg is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, and the hind foot $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, when the animal is measured taken out of spirit.

The examination of the skeleton has proved this animal to be the *Azema Smithii*; and, like this, it has the nose and the intermaxillary bones produced not so much as in the *Galago Demidoffi*. This prominence of the intermaxillaries at once distinguishes it from *Murilemur murinus*, which is otherwise very like it and comes from Madagascar, the skull of which is also at once known by the existence of a large round perforation on each side of the hinder edge of the palate, well figured by Mr. Mivart, and not found in the skull of either *Azema Smithii* or *Galago Demidoffi*.

Note on the Anatomy of Comatula rosacea. By E. PERRIER.

Last summer, at the laboratory of experimental zoology of M. Lacaze-Duthiers, at Roscoff (Finisterre), I endeavoured to clear up the obscure points which still exist in the anatomy of the *Comatulæ*, the last remains of the rich fauna of Crinoids presented to us by geological strata. Our *Comatulæ* are provided with ten arms, arranged in pairs, and radiating round a disk, upon which is placed a visceral sac containing the digestive apparatus. The arms are furnished on each side with a row of alternate *pinnules*, each joint of the arms bearing a pinnule upon one of its sides. The pinnules seem to be a repetition on a small scale of the arms themselves, but they do not bear secondary pinnules.

On the disk we see two orifices—one central, which is the mouth; the other lateral, corresponding to the interval between two pairs of arms, and situated at the extremity of a sort of fleshy chimney terminated by eight lobes; this is the anus. Round the mouth there is a vascular ring, which, opposite to the base of each pair of arms, emits a vascular branch; and this, bifurcating at the base of each pair, furnishes each arm with a canal called the *radial* or *tentacular canal*. The vascular ring in the intervals between the five primary radial canals gives origin, on its inner margin, to eight or ten contiguous digitiform tentacles, which are largest at the middle of each interval, and become smaller in the neighbourhood of the