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XXXVIII.—On a new marsupial

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less no doubt accounts for their having so long escaped notice. That they are a serious and constant enemy of the earthworm seems to be shown by the comparative frequency with which worms devoid of clitellum and normal sperm occur, and also by observations upon earthworms found travelling over the surface of paths after rain. These are stated by Latter (2) to be "in the majority of cases infected by larvæ of parasitic flies and doomed to die." All the specimens that I have examined have contained large numbers of bacteria in the seminal vesicles and no ripe sperm. It may be that some of them were also infected by fly larvæ; but, even if so, my observations show that when conditions are otherwise unfavourable the bacterium is always ready to take advantage.

Literature referred to.

- (1) BRASIL, L.—C. R. Ac. Sci. xl. pt. 9, 1905, p. 597.
- (2) LATTER, O.—'The Natural History of some Common Animals,' 1904, p. 3.
- (3) SMITH, G.—Quart. J. Microsc. Sci. liv. 1910, p. 577.

XXXVIII.—*On a new Marsupial.* By Prof. F. FOERSTER and the Hon. WALTER ROTHCHILD, Ph.D.

Phalanger larvatus, sp. n.

Fur of pelage velvety, smoky grey, an ill-defined mesial dorsal line or stripe of dark brown expanding into a distinct smoky black band over head and face to the nose. Throat black, a black band from throat across cheeks to ears, a similar one on crown between the ears. Snout smoky black; face tawny ochraceous. Forearms washed with tawny ochraceous on outside. Underside dirty grey, paler in centre; chest and lower throat yellowish white. Tail hairy to tip, black, with a few scattered silky grey hairs at base; underside of tail naked for the apical 120 mm. Ears hairy outside, tawny ochraceous, naked within. Upper dental series, distance between *c* and *i* 3 = to that between *c* and *pm* 1.

Nearest to *avarus*, Thom. *P. larvatus* as well as *P. avarus*, Thom., can always be distinguished from the forms of *P. canescens* by the tawny outside of the ears; from *P. avarus* it is at once distinguished by the entirely black tail.

Dimensions. Head and body 340 mm.; tail 230–250; nose to ear 35; ear 8.

Hab. Rawlinson Mts., German New Guinea. 2 ♂♂.