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Description of a new species of Aulacorhamphus

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central rounded portion, while the smaller end is not so visibly affected. Of course, according to Schleiden's view, the continuity of the lines is a necessary consequence of the formation by layers. I did not attempt to trace the continuity of each line: I endeavoured to count the number from the small end to the hilum, and from thence to the large end, and could always distinguish more lines in the latter direction. The starch certainly appears, when heated on a metal plate, to separate in the direction of the concentric lines. Also, if starch be made into a paste with gum, and thin slices be taken from the mass, many sections of the granules will be made. As far as my observations extend, if a granule from which only a small piece has been cut off be observed, cross lines upon the cut surface uniting the concentric lines will be seen. If, however, the section extend through the middle of a granule, such lines will not be observed. Also in examining uninjured starch, I fancy that, the starch (being beyond the focus) as it is brought into focus, the concentric lines come into view on the surface of the granule before the edges are quite brought into focus, as though the markings were superficial. May not the lines be formed by foldings of the membrane dipping into the starch, and disposing it to break up in the direction of the folds, somewhat analogous, in fact, to the ruminated albumen of the nutmeg? I do not positively assert this view, but merely throw it out as a conjecture; it seems to me not improbable. The hilum I believe to be the remains of the nucleus, which in full-grown vegetable cells is generally absorbed; that it is a hollow space filled possibly with amorphous starch, perhaps only with water or cell-sap. I think, however, that the only method of attaining a sure knowledge of the structure of the starch grain is by observations on its development; by taking, for instance a potato, examining by sections the first appearance of the tubers when they appear as mere swellings of a fibril, and continuing the observation up to the cells of the fully-formed tuber. I purpose making some observations on the subject during the spring, and if I find them of any value, will communicate them to the Society.—*From the Pharmaceutical Journal*, April 1855.

Description of a New Species of Aulacorhamphus.

By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S.

AULACORHAMPHUS CÆRULEOGULARIS.

Upper surface dark green, with an olive tint on the head and nape, and of a brighter green on the rump and upper tail-coverts; primaries blackish brown, margined externally at the base with dark green; tail deep green, passing into blue towards the extremity, and tipped with rich chestnut; throat and fore part of the cheeks cærulean blue; under surface green, washed with yellow on the flanks and abdomen; under tail-coverts rich chestnut; bill black, with the exception of the upper part of the sides of the upper mandible and the apical portion of the culmen, which are greenish yellow, passing into

purser yellow at the tip ; on the sides of both mandibles at the base a broad band, which on the upper one is yellow, and on the lower white ; orbits red ; legs and feet greenish lead-colour.

Total length, $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches ; bill, $2\frac{1}{8}$; wing, $4\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $4\frac{3}{4}$; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Hab. Veragua.

Remark.—Nearly allied to *Aulacorhamphus albivitta* ; but distinguished from that species by its rich blue throat, by the band at the base of the bill being much broader and yellow on the upper mandible, instead of white, and by the under surface being washed with yellow, while in the other it is pure green.—*From the Proc. Zool. Soc.* Feb. 22, 1853.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR MARCH 1855.

Chiswick.—March 1. Heavy rain : very fine : halo round the moon in the evening. 2. Cloudy : rain. 3. Low white clouds : heavy rain : clear and fine. 4. Clear : cloudy and fine. 5. Slight fog : very fine. 6. Cloudy and fine : foggy. 7. Frosty : fine. 8. Very clear : fine : sharp frost. 9. Frosty : few snow-flakes : overcast. 10. Snowing : sharp frost at night. 11. Cloudy : rain at night. 12. Cloudy : rain. 13. Fine. 14. Fine : cloudy. 15. Cloudy : rain. 16. Densely overcast : fine. 17. Fine : rain : clear. 18. Cloudy and boisterous. 19. Showery. 20. Foggy : very fine. 21. Cloudy and cold : hail-shower. 22. Sleet : cold rain : overcast : boisterous. 23, 24. Cloudy and cold. 25. Fine : sharp frost at night. 26. Clear : cloudy : fine. 27. Very fine. 28. Drizzly : heavy rain. 29. Cloudy : clear and fine. 30. Cloudy. 31. Heavy clouds : clear and fine.

Mean temperature of the month 37°·61
Mean temperature of March 1854 42°·54
Mean temperature of March for the last twenty-nine years... 42°·24
Average amount of rain in March 1·33 inch.

Boston.—March 1. Fine : rain P.M. 2. Fine. 3. Fine : stormy and rain A.M. 4, 5. Fine. 6, 7. Foggy. 8. Fine. 9. Cloudy. 10. Fine. 11. Fine : snow P.M. 12. Cloudy : rain P.M. 13. Rain : rain A.M. 14. Cloudy. 15. Fine. 16. Fine : rain A.M. 17. Cloudy : rain A.M. and P.M. 18, 19. Fine. 20, 21. Cloudy. 22. Cloudy : snow A.M. 23—25. Cloudy. 26. Fine. 27, 28. Cloudy. 29—31. Fine.

Sandwich Manse, Orkney.—March 1. Showers A.M. and P.M. 2. Rain A.M. and P.M. 3. Rain A.M. : drizzle P.M. 4. Clear A.M. : cloudy, large solar halo P.M. 5. Clear A.M. : cloudy P.M. 6. Bright A.M. : clear, fine P.M. 7, 8. Bright, hoar-frost A.M. : clear, frost P.M. 9. Bright, hoar-frost A.M. : clear, drops P.M. 10. Snow-showers A.M. : cloudy P.M. 11. Cloudy A.M. : snow-showers P.M. 12. Snow-showers A.M. : snow-drift P.M. 13. Snow A.M. : cloudy P.M. 14. Bright A.M. : clear, aurora P.M. 15. Bright A.M. : cloudy P.M. 16. Rain A.M. : cloudy P.M. 17. Clear A.M. : damp P.M. 18. Rain A.M. : showers, aurora P.M. 19. Bright A.M. : clear, aurora P.M. 20. Bright A.M. : clear P.M. 21. Clear A.M. : clear, aurora P.M. 22—24. Snow-showers A.M. : clear P.M. 25. Snow-showers A.M. and P.M. 26. Snow A.M. : clear, frost P.M. 27. Snow, clear A.M. : cloudy P.M. 28. Cloudy A.M. : clear P.M. 29, 30. Clear A.M. and P.M. 31. Bright A.M. : clear P.M.

Mean temperature of March for twenty-eight previous years... 40°·53
Mean temperature of this month 36°·61
Mean temperature of March 1854 45°·14
Average quantity of rain in March for fourteen previous years 2·52 inches.

The mean temperature of this month is lower than that of March during any of the twenty-eight years of my observations, except in 1837, when it was 36°·54, and in 1839, when it was 36°·33. That of March last year was the highest during the whole period.