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On the colour of the kittens of the species of cats (Felidæ)

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fish, the large species of *Gadus*, or other voracious and well-armed inhabitants of the sea. Lastly, as a *Bucephalus* has also been met with in the livers of *Paludina*, and *Gasterostoma* in the intestines of the pike, the eel, and other fishes, and even of the duck, I cannot help thinking that the freshwater species belonging to this group of Trematodes are more numerous than has hitherto been thought. The differences mentioned above between the marine *Bucephalus* of the ocean and that of the Mediterranean may also perhaps acquire greater value when a complete and comparative study of these animals has been made.—*Comptes Rendus*, August 17, 1874, vol. lxxix. p. 485.

Note on the Enemies of Diffugia. By J. LEIDY.

Prof. Leidy remarked that in the relationship of *Diffugia* and *Amœba* we should suppose that the former had been evolved from the latter, and that its stone house would protect it from enemies to which the *Amœba* would be most exposed. The *Diffugia* has many enemies. I have repeatedly observed an *Amœba* with a swallowed *Arcella*, but never with a *Diffugia*. Worms destroy many of the latter, and I have frequently observed them within the intestine of *Nais*, *Pristina*, *Chætogaster*, and *Æolosoma*. I was surprised to find that *Stentor polymorphus* was also fond of *Diffugia*, and I have frequently observed this animalcule containing them. On one occasion I accidentally fixed a *Stentor* by pressing down the cover of an animalcule-cage on a *Diffugia* which it had swallowed. The *Stentor* contracted and suddenly elongated, and repeated these movements until it had split three fourths the length of its body through, and had torn itself loose from the fastened *Diffugia*. Nor did the *Stentor* suffer from this laceration of its body; for in the course of several hours each half became separated as a distinct individual.—*Proc. Acad. Sci. Philad.* 1874, p. 75.

On the Colour of the Kittens of the Species of Cats (Felidæ).

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

The British Museum received a very young specimen of a jaguar from M. Verreaux in 1860, labelled *Leopardus onca*, Mexico. The body and head are $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, the tail $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. It is of a nearly uniform brown colour, without any indications of darker spots. The head, neck, and front of throat are rather paler than the rest of the body, the hinder part and the feet being rather darker. The upper lip is whitish, with a spot on each side of the front, just under the nostrils. It is somewhat like the young of the hunting leopard (*Gueparda guttata*) in the British Museum, described and figured P. Z. S. 1867, t. xxiv., but very different from it.

The young leopard, or panther (*Leopardus varius*), which was born in the Zoological Gardens, has, like its mother, numerous spots or roses on all parts of the head, body, and limbs; but the tail is

much longer compared with the size of the body and comparatively slenderer.

The kittens of the greater number of variegated feline animals are spotted or striped like the adult; but the very young kittens of the hunting leopard (*Gueparda guttata*) and of the jaguar (*Leopardus onca*) are brown and not spotted; and the young pumas, while their mothers are of a uniform dark brown colour, are pale whitish brown, with large, dark, roundish, regularly disposed blotches, the blotches being more distinct in the younger specimens and gradually becoming more indistinct as the animal grows.

Dr. Baird describes a pair of kittens from Fort Steilacoom which he thought "probably belonged to this species" (Mam. North America, p. 84), which well agree with the young we have in the British Museum, born at the Zoological Gardens, and figured by Mr. Bartlett (P. Z. S. 1861, pl. 22) from a drawing by Wolff. The adult lion is of a uniform colour; but the young kitten of a Barbary lion in the British Museum, which was littered in the Zoological Gardens in 1853, is of a nearly uniform whity brown colour, but has some very indistinct darker spots on the outside of its hind legs and tail.

The tails of the kittens of several cats, as the lion and the common domestic cat, appear to be shorter compared with the body than in the adult, which is probably universal in all the species of cats.

A Scarlet Ear Shell, probably Artificial.

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

Many years ago I purchased of Mr. George Sowerby, the elder, a very beautiful specimen that he had purchased of a Frenchman, who informed him that it had been described and figured as a new genus of shells, I forget by whom; and I have never been able to discover where it was published, if it ever was. It has the appearance of a very irregular, corrugated, suborbicular, ear shell, with an irregular outer lip. It is of a bright scarlet colour, and is without the usual series of holes over the gills of the animal, in this respect resembling *Stomatia*. The shell is of a uniform appearance and colour, and has no external opaque or internal pearly coat, which is found in the ear shells and their allies, and, having been accidentally broken across the fracture, shows a uniform texture very different from an ear shell.

After examination I determined (and I believe Mr. Sowerby agreed with me) that it was a model of a shell carved out of the expanded part at the base of a red coral.

I have given the specimen to the British Museum collection; for if it is a model, it is very interesting and curious, being executed with great elaboration and attention to the minute details by a person who must have had a very intimate knowledge of the formation and growth of shells: though the outer surface is so irregularly formed, the irregularities are just such as would occur in a shell which has such an irregular outline to the outer lip, and the