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LXXI.—Agamidæ and Iguanidæ.

WHILST arranging some portion of early correspondence I came across a letter from my late friend, Professor Kaup, d. Darmstadt, Novbr. 23, 1869, in which he incidentally refers to the fact that he had been the first to recognize by the different insertion of the teeth the two zoogeographical divisions of Lacertilia, which ever since have been distinguished as Agamidæ and Iguanidæ, appealing to me to vindicate his claim of priority. After this lapse of time it would be useless for me to enquire why I omitted to comply with his request at the time; I can only say that the omission was quite unintentional, but I consider it a duty to rectify it now.

This, indeed, should be unnecessary inasmuch as already Wiegmann, in the *Herpetol. Mex.* 1834, p. 13, has fully acknowledged and established Kaup's claim. He says:—*"Hanc diversitatem geographicam oculatissimus Kaupius primus detexit, et in Iside 1827. p. 610 docte exposuit. Ill. Waglerus Kaupii nullam faciens mentionem, rem jam a me stabilitam (Isis 1829. p. 422) denuo protulit quasi novam, et a semetipso inventam (S. A. p. 228). Haec, salva in cineres amicissimi viri pietate, ne Kaupii nostri merita laudesque imminuerentur, reticere nolui, quum Cel. Oken, quod illi debebat tribuere, mihi falso adscripsit (Isis 1831. p. 1015). Nihil enim equidem in hac re detexi, nihilque addidi, nisi quod legem indicavi, qua Sauri per orbem terrarum dispersi videantur."*

The cause why Kaup's merits in the matter were not equally recognized or entirely overlooked in subsequent or modern herpetological works may be found in the unfortunate circumstance that he omitted to give technical names to the two groups, designating them as

1. Höhere Saurier der Neuen Welt (with six genera), and
2. Höhere Saurier der Alten Welt (with nine genera).

This was done by Gray, who, singularly enough, in the same month of the same year (July 1827) published in the '*Philosophical Magazine*' an arrangement of the families of Lacertilia, with partial indication of their geographical range. He divided them into seven families, of which the fifth is named Iguanidæ (without locality) and the seventh Agamidæ (comprising genera from the "Old and New World, New Holland and India"), the Chamæleonidæ occupying the

place between them. Gray, like Kaup, distinguished the Agamidæ from the Iguanidæ chiefly on account of the mode of insertion of their teeth in the jaws; but his then imperfect knowledge of their geographical ranges prevented him from perceiving the fact that the difference in their dental characters coincided with their distribution over the globe. Evidently this fact was first pointed out by Kaup. A. GÜNTHER.

LXXII.—*Notes from the Gatty Marine Laboratory, St. Andrews.*—No. XXX. By Prof. M'INTOSH, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., &c.

[Plates XII. & XII. a.]

1. On the Stranding of an Adult Female *Mesoplodon bidens*, Sowerby, at St. Andrews.
2. On an Abnormal Plaice with a Precaudal Fin-frill on the Left Side.
3. On *Orthogoriscus mola*, Bl.
4. On the British *Sphærodoridæ*, *Chloræmidæ*, and *Chætopteridæ*.
5. On the same Families dredged in the 'Porcupine' Expeditions of 1869 and 1870.
6. On the foregoing Families dredged in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada, by Dr. Whiteaves.
7. On the same Families dredged in Norwegian Waters and in Finmark by Canon Norman.

1. *On the Stranding of an Adult Female Mesoplodon bidens, Sowerby, at St. Andrews.*

For some days in May the fishermen had observed a whale moving between the Castle and the mouth of the Eden about a mile from shore. Then on the afternoon of the 28th May a fisherman-caddie, George Brown, saw what he thought was a horse floundering in the sea about a mile from the Club-house and in shallow water about 150 yards from the edge.

It floundered on parallel with the shore about 100 yards, apparently after having touched the bottom and without being able to turn its head seawards. He and others went out, waded into the water, and found the whale, which was of a brownish-black colour, paler ventrally, still living, and beating the water with its tail. They prevented the receding tide carrying it out, though, perhaps, such was not likely to happen, and it died in ten minutes. When preparing the carcass, which was over 16 feet in length, for a skeleton, A. W. Brown, of the Laboratory, found that the left shoulder and arm were extensively ecchymosed, the muscles and