

Note on some Sponges from the Auckland Islands.

By Prof. R. VON LENDENFELD.

Since comparatively little is known of the littoral fauna in higher southern latitudes, I was very glad to find among the shallow-water sponges sent to me by my late friend Baron Mueller, of Melbourne, a number of specimens, belonging to five different species, from the Auckland Islands.

These islands are situated in lat. 50° 30' S. and long. 166° E., about 450 km. south of New Zealand. The sponges from that locality in Mueller's collection are: 1. *Antherochalina concentrica*, 2. *Ceraochalina multiformis* var. *dura*, 3. *Euchalinopsis (Chalina) oculata*, 4. *Thorecta exemplum* var. *tertia*, and 5. *Spongelia elastica* var. *lobosa*. 2, 3, and 4 have previously been found in New Zealand; 1, 4, and 5 in Australia; and 3, 4, and 5 also elsewhere. New forms, not hitherto obtained from other localities, were not among these Auckland-Island sponges.

On the Sexes of Charaxes mixtus, Rothschild.

By A. G. BUTLER, Ph.D. &c.

In my late revision of the genus *Charaxes* (Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool. vol. xxv. p. 377) I placed *C. mixtus*, Roths., as a variety of *C. tiridates*, remarking:—"There can be no doubt, I think, that the prominence of the white centres to the blue spots, unless proved to be peculiar to one locality only, can hardly indicate even a distinct race. Mr. Rothschild insists that the true female of *C. mixtus* resembles the male!"

Recently Mr. Rothschild brought the type of his female *C. mixtus* to the Museum, but, unhappily, I was away ill. Mr. Heron, however, made a careful coloured drawing of it, which, on my return, he showed me. Directly I looked at it I was convinced, by the form of the wings alone, that it was a female, though with the colouring of a male!* Mr. Rothschild was therefore quite correct as to the sex of his type of *C. mixtus* ♀. Whether the latter is more than a dimorphic form of *C. tiridates* can only be satisfactorily decided by those who have an opportunity of studying it in life and breeding it; but there are several other species of *Charaxes* which have two well-defined forms of females, whilst the males differ in much the same way as those of *C. mixtus* and *C. tiridates* †. I hardly think *C. mixtus* can be a seasonal form, on account of its great rarity, whilst *C. tiridates* is one of the most abundant of the blue *Charaxes* of West Africa; but I think it may be a rare dimorphic form of *C. tiridates* ♀. The differences in the male alone would not strike anybody as of great importance—they are less than one notes between the acknowledged varieties of many species; nevertheless, if they should be proved to be constant, I would be the last to refuse to recognize their importance, for I am well aware that characters which in one group of butterflies are valueless are quite constant and reliable in another.

* An extremely surprising thing in this group, where the female differences are usually very pronounced.

† *C. Hollandii* and *C. Dewitzi*.