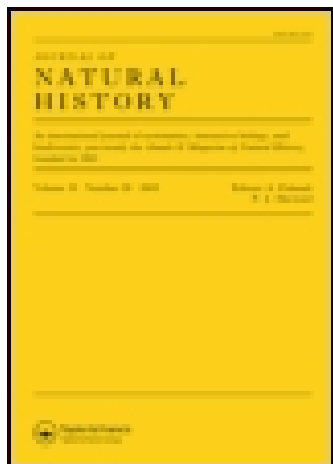


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On peloric structures

Dr. Peyritsch

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On the Varieties of Indris and Propithecus.

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

A series of specimens of lemurs have arrived from Madagascar. The examination of them has confirmed the idea that I expressed in a paper sent to the Zoological Society, that these animals are liable to considerable variation, and that the presumed species of the genera *Indris* and *Propithecus* are mere varieties of colour.

The British Museum has lately received an adult *Indris*, which, instead of being black with a white patch on the hinder part of the back and a black tail, has a patch over each eyebrow, the fore legs nearly to the hands, the hinder part of the thighs, the legs from the knee to the ankle, and the whole of the underside iron-grey—that is to say, having a very large quantity of whitish hairs intermixed with the black ones; the ankles and hinder part of the heels white, and yellow below. The variety may be named *Indris variegatus*.

The British Museum has also received a fine adult specimen of the animal called *Propithecus diadema*, which differs from the three other specimens in the British Museum in having a greyish black instead of the white forehead that is to be found in the three other specimens.

On Peloric Structures. By Dr. PEYRITSCH.

In this paper, types of peloric structures in Labiatae, Verbenaceae, Scrophulariaceae, and Ranunculaceae were described in detail, and the peculiarities which each of these families presents in its peloric structures were discussed. With regard to the Labiatae, the author endeavoured to show that the prevailing theory upon the structure of the Labiate flower is not tenable. Upon the hypothesis that with the first three whorls of flower-leaves an equal number of whorl-members must be assumed as originally present, the structure of the Labiate flower indicates changes which have taken place in the number of the flower-leaves. The prevailing theory explains the number of the anthers by the complete abortion of the fifth anther; but changes in the number of the whorl-members of the calyx and corolla may also have taken place, and the number of the anthers may indicate the original type.

The author expressed himself in favour of the latter alternative. The preponderant occurrence of quaternary types in the apical and lateral regular flowers is, in his opinion, in contradiction to the assumption of the quinary type. In zygomorphic flower-structures anomalies in the number of anthers often occur; but those are most rare in which a posterior anther appears. The assumption of a quaternary type has, moreover, the advantage of simplicity, and the number and position of the flower-leaves then stand in connexion with the position of the leaves and bracts, which only in the rarest cases depart from the cruciformly opposite position.—*Anzeiger der kais. Akad. der Wiss. in Wien*, October 24, 1872, p. 161.