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### Experiments to show that the fins of fishes are regenerated only when their Basal Portion at least is left

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I also wish to place on record the capture, this summer, of two specimens (male and female) of the Striped or Cook Wrasse (*Labrus mixtus* of Yarrell), which, from what I hear from the fishermen, is very rarely met with on this coast, though mentioned as an occasional visitor by Mrs. Merrifield in her 'Natural History of Brighton.' According to Couch, it is not uncommon on the Cornish coast, but appears to be rarely met with elsewhere. Both specimens were taken about the same spot, on a shoal about five miles off Eastbourne, the first in a lobster-pot, the other by a line. Of the male I have only seen the dried skin; but the female was brought to me soon after it was caught, and it has been preserved in glycerine, but has lost the brilliancy of colouring which makes it so resemble the wonderful productions of tropical seas in the intensity of the deep-blue stripes bordered by the brilliant orange and yellow tints that cover the mass of the body.

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. S. ROPER.

*On the Origin and Increase of Bacteria.* By Dr. A. POLOTEBNOW.

The author's investigations, made in Prof. Wiesner's laboratory, at the Polytechnic Institute of Vienna, have led him to the following results:—

1. That a perfect genetic connexion exists between *Bacterium*, *Vibrio*, and *Spirillum*, and that these present no other differences but those of size and direction.

2. None of the Vibriones (*Vibrio*, *Bacterium*, and *Spirillum*) are independent organisms, but only derivatives (delicate mycelia) from the spores of fungi, especially those of *Penicillium glaucum*.

3. The development of the Vibriones from the spores of *Penicillium* may be best followed when the spores are exposed to the action of a high temperature (140°–212° F.).

4. The notion that Vibriones are developed in the filaments of mycelium from the granules occurring in the cells proves to be quite erroneous, as also that of the conversion of Vibriones into other higher forms (yeast &c.).—*Anzeiger der k. k. Akad. der Wiss. in Wien*, April 29, 1869, pp. 87–88.

*Experiments to show that the Fins of Fishes are Regenerated only when their Basal Portion at least is left.* By M. J. M. PHILPEAUX.

The author's experiments on the regeneration of the spleen of the mammalia and the limbs of the newts and axolotl have been extended by him to the fins of fishes.

He cut off the left ventral fin of some gudgeons at the level of the abdominal surface. The fishes were then placed in a basin under favourable conditions, and in eight months the fins were completely reproduced.

In a second series of experiments upon the same species the author entirely extirpated the right ventral fin, including all the small bones which support it; the fishes having been put into the basin, some of them died from the effects of the operation, whilst those which survived showed a perfect cicatrix eight months after the

operation, but no indication of the regeneration of the fin. Brousenet came to the same conclusion; and the author considers that it may be stated as a general law, with regard to vertebrate animals at least, that when an organ is entirely removed, it can never be regenerated.—*Comptes Rendus*, March 15, 1869, tome lxxiii. pp. 669–670.

*Descriptions of two new Species of Hymenoptera from the Argentine Republic.* By J. C. PULS.

*Melipona molesta.*

Black, shining, entirely covered with white hairs. *Antennæ* black, with their extremity and the lower part of the first joint brownish. *Head* black, shining, covered with white hairs. *Thorax* black, shining, the hairs white; prothorax bordered by a yellowish-white line; mesothorax having a similar line above the insertion of the wings; metathorax having a point of the same colour on each side. *Scutellum* inferiorly bordered by a line of the same colour. *Abdomen* black, shining, covered with white hairs. *Legs* black; tarsi brown. *Wings* hyaline, nervures yellow (worker). Length 4 millimetres.

*Hab.* San Luis, in woods of small trees. It is very troublesome like the flies. December (*Strobel*).

*Odynerus albocinctus.*

Black, thorax very villose; abdomen velvety, shining, first segment margined with yellowish white; antennæ and mandibles red; legs red, with the femora black. Length 9 millimetres; expanse 20 millimetres.

♀. *Clypeus* pyriform, with a strong emargination, forming two triangular teeth, punctured. *Antennæ* entirely red; mandibles, palpi, and labrum red. *Head* and *thorax* covered with long, close hairs; metathorax rounded. *Abdomen* black, velvety, shining, sprinkled with longer hairs, the first segment bordered by a thin yellowish-white line; second segment having no tubercle beneath. *Wings* brownish, with the extremity violet; scale black. *Legs* red, with all the femora black, except on their anterior part.

This is the only species that might be confounded with *Odynerus Antuca*, Sauss. (in Gay's 'Chili'), as having the first segment of the abdomen yellowish white; but it differs therefrom by its black clypeus, scales, and femora.

*Hab.* Near a spring, Portezuelo de Bonilla, in the Sierra de Uspallata, in the province of Mendoza. January (*Strobel*).—*Atti della Società Italiana di Sci. Nat.* vol. xi. pp. 257 & 258, October 1868.

*Habits of the Medusæ.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY.

Mr. M'Andrew informs me that he often saw the Sea-jellies (*Mедуsa æquorea*, Forskål, Fauna Ægyptiaca, n. 28. t. 32) lying on their backs at the bottom of the beautiful clear water of the Red Sea, with the tentacles expanded like a flower. The Arab sailors dived for them, and brought them up to the surface. The Arabs are very handy in this respect, and will bring up any animal, shell, or stone that may be pointed out to them, jumping in a moment from the