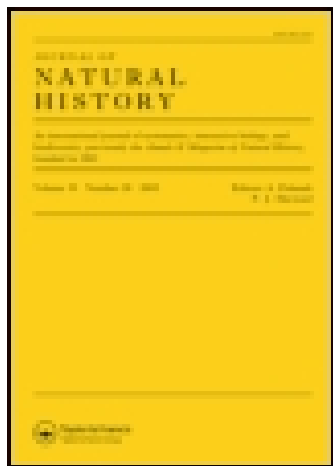


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Note on Dr. Macdonald's paper on the dentition of Gasteropods

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One Carolina parrot was frost-bitten in the hard winter of 1860, and lost both her legs. She looked a deplorable object ever after; but a magnificent parrot took pity on her, and devoted himself to her in a most chivalrous manner, defending her from the attacks of other parrots who would have murdered her, cleaning her feathers, and generally sitting close to her side. The contrast was most ridiculous between the diseased old cripple and the splendid young knight who had this infatuation for her. After some years, however, the cockatoos made a combined attack upon her, a tremendous scrimmage took place, certainly not without the "din of battle," and it ended in the slaughter of the poor old bird.

They are very fond of the under gardener, who feeds them; and he is rarely to be seen at work out in the garden without one or two cockatoos sitting on his head or shoulders. Their arrangement of their hours is a very sensible one. Soon after dawn their voices may be heard from a distant wood, in which most of them sleep. They then come and wait for their breakfast; but the midday hours are always spent in sleep, after which they again seek for food, and come for their supper; but before they go to bed they, like rooks, devote themselves to a regular jollification, the parrots often flying round at a great height in circles, screaming with delight, while the cockatoos fly from tree to tree with their crests erected, shrieking at the top of their sweet voices, especially if they see people in the garden, which always is a great amusement to them. I must confess that some of them, if not all, are mischievous, especially in the way of picking fruit; but we think ourselves more than repaid by the animation they give to the garden, and the exquisite beauty of their colouring.

Note on Dr. Macdonald's Paper on the Dentition of Gasteropods.

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

I think that Dr. Macdonald has committed an error that is common to young naturalists—has mistaken an analogy for an affinity. The form of the lateral teeth of the odontophore is, no doubt, a good specific (and may be generic) character; but I think that Dr. Macdonald's table proves that it is not the character of a family. The character of a family should be derived from the consideration of the whole animal—its form, the form and development of the teeth, and the form of the shell and operculum; and not from any one character, such as the form of the lateral lingual teeth, especially if it brings together in the same family such a series of incongruous genera and separates nearly allied genera as they are separated in Dr. Macdonald's list. Therefore I cannot agree with him that "the lingual dentition appears to be the only appeal," or that the best means for arranging the genera and families is according to the form of the lateral teeth. I think, if any one will consult Dr. Macdonald's plate, he must perceive that the lateral teeth gradually pass from one form to the other; and I cannot conceive any reason why all the forms figured may not belong to the genera of one family.