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XLVII.—Notes on the trionychian genus Pelochelys

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Kaup had used Pterosaurii previously for the genus *Pterodactylus*, not for the group as now known*. The merit of recognizing that order clearly rests with von Meyer, and the suggestion of a name for it cannot be important unless the name is suitable. Recognition of avian affinities in the bones of Pterodactyles in 1864 proved the starting-point of work among fossil reptiles which ended in the recognition of similar avian characters in portions of skeletons of other orders previously regarded as entirely reptilian. And on that account the name Ornithosauria is convenient, as expressing a new and truer point of view.

The Pterosauria of Owen and Zittel is not the Pterosaurii of J. J. Kaup any more than the Ornithosauria of 1869 is the Ornithosaurii of Fitzinger and Bonaparte; but while the former name appears to me to perpetuate a fundamental error, the latter is based on important truths of organic and osteological structure, which are becoming generally recognized. I proposed (Journ. Linn. Soc., Dec. 1876) to limit de Blainville's Pterodactylia to the Jurassic Pterodactyles as an order comparable to the Ornithocheiroidea. And if the name Pterosauria were retained, it could only be as a substitute for Pterodactylia, indicating the short-tailed animals with long hind limbs, of which *Pterodactylus* is the type. And in any case the name must be limited to the group for which it was originally proposed, as in the classification given in the Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. for March 1891.

XLVII.—*Notes on the Trionychnian Genus Pelochelys.*
By G. BAUR.

DR. ALEXANDER STRAUCH † has lately described a new species of *Pelochelys* from Futschau (China) under the name *P. Poljakowii*. This species, which is doubtless distinct from the type of *Pelochelys Cantoris*, Gray, is characterized by its broad interorbital portion, which is equal to the postorbital arch.

According to Boulenger the forms of *Pelochelys* from the Philippines are identical with those of the continent (*P. Cantoris*). I have lately examined, through the kindness of

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., August 1870.

† Strauch, Dr. Alexander, "Bemerkungen über die Schildkröten-sammlung im zoologischen Museum der kaiserl. Akad. d. Wiss. St. Petersburg," St. Pétersbourg, 1890, Mém. Acad. Imp. Sc. 7^e série, tome xxxviii. n.o. 2, pp. 118-120, pl. iv. ff. 1-3.

Prof. Angelo Heilprin, a skull of *Pelochelys* from the Philippines preserved in the Philadelphia Academy. This skull is totally different from the skull of *Pelochelys Cantoris*, Gray; it resembles more that of *P. Poljakowii*, but it is also different from this.

The skull in the Philadelphia Academy, no. 111 (W. W. Wood), has the interorbital space larger than the diameter of the orbit, the postorbital arch larger than the interorbital, and the proboscis elongated as in *P. Poljakowii*. In general shape it is nearest to the latter species, but it differs from it by its broader postorbital arch and its parietals, which are not so much expanded mesially.

The following table gives the measurements of the type of *Pelochelys Bibronii*, Owen, in the Royal College of Surgeons, London, kindly sent to me by Prof. Stewart, of *P. Poljakowii*, Strauch, taken from the figures, and of the Philadelphia specimen.

| | <i>P. Bibronii</i> , Owen. millim. | <i>P. Poljakowii</i> , Strauch. millim. | <i>P. spec.</i> (Philippines). millim. |
|---|--|---|--|
| Preorbital arch (from nasal opening to orbit) | 7·5 | 9 | 10·5 |
| Interorbital arch | 11 | 14·5 | 16 |
| Postorbital arch | 14 | 14·5 | 17·5 |
| Horizontal diam. of orbit . . | ?* | 12 | 12·5 |

The locality of the type of *Pelochelys Bibronii*, Owen, is not known; the type of *Pelochelys Cantoris*, Gray, is from Penang. According to Boulenger *P. Bibronii* and *P. Cantoris* are identical; but according to him also the forms from the Philippines, which had been described as *P. Cumingii*, are not different. That the Philippines contain a species of *Pelochelys* different from the *P. Cantoris* there can be no doubt; the only question now is whether the specimens in the British Museum from the Philippines agree with the specimen in the Philadelphia Academy. In this case the name *P. Cumingii* has to be applied for this species. *Pelochelys* occurs also in Borneo; and it would be interesting to know whether this genus is represented by a peculiar species on this island, or with which of the other forms it is identical.

Clark Univ., Worcester, Mass.,
March 30, 1891.

* It appears from the figures published of *P. Cantoris* that the interorbital space is smaller than the horizontal diameter of the orbit.