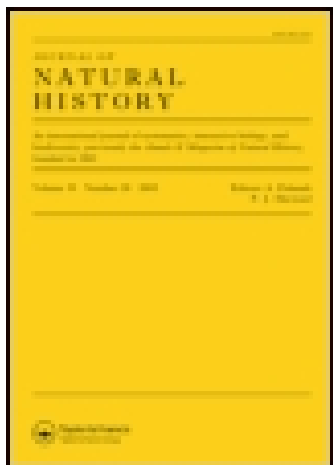


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### On the formation of vegetable mould by the action of certain animals

Dr. C. Keller

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*Plagusia squamosa*, *Nautilograpsus minutus*, *Lambrus massena*, *Pisa armata*, *Ethusa mascaroni*, *Dorippe lunata*, *Pagurus striatus*, *Diogenes varians*, *Gnathophyllum elegans*, and *Palæmon treillianus*.

The author considers that the Bay of Marseilles forms a very important geographical centre. The invertebrate faunas which it possesses present a mixed character, containing boreal and tropical species. This proves the existence of wide open communications during the Tertiary epoch, on the one hand with the boreal provinces through the Bay of Biscay and the south of Spain, on the other with the equatorial Atlantic.—*Comptes Rendus*, December 5, 1887, p. 1132.

*On the supposed Peripheral Processes of the Clionæ.*

By M. E. TOPSENT.

In the calcareous walls of the galleries of the *Clionæ* numerous greenish-yellow or green filaments are found ramifying in the thickness of the perforated stones and shells, becoming slightly dilated here and there, and anastomosing or intercrossing in all directions. These have been described by M. N. Nassouow \* as processes of the mesoderm of *Cliona stationis*, Nass., and he supposes them to indicate the points of activity of the perforating sponge. The author remarks that *à priori* this function seems very improbable, and on investigation he found that the filaments may be entirely wanting in shells attacked by *Cliona*, while they abound in old imperforate shells. He identifies the filaments with those of the vegetable parasites which have been long well known as perforating the calcareous parts of aquatic organisms, and suggests that when associated with *Cliona* the plants in question have simply availed themselves of the passages formed by the sponge to penetrate readily into the interior of the shells.—*Comptes Rendus*, December 12, 1887, p. 1188.

*On the Formation of Vegetable Mould by the Action of certain Animals.* By Dr. C. KELLER.

The author's investigations, made under the tropics, and especially in the island of Madagascar, strikingly corroborate the discoveries of Darwin in this domain lying on the confines of biology and geology. Earthworms in point of fact have a most important action in the preparation of humus, and in Madagascar the principal part is performed by a colossal worm a metre in length, *Geophagus Darwinii*. In the coast region, as also in the mangrove-forests, the part of the earthworms in this work is fulfilled by Crustaceans, especially crabs.—*Session de la Soc. Helvétique des Sci. Nat.*, Août 1887; *Bibl. Univ.*, Nov. 15, 1887, p. 429.

\* "Zur Biologie und Anatomie der *Clione*," in *Zeitschr. für wiss. Zool.* Bd. xxxix. (1883).