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mummied dogs in my possession, which have apparently not been properly embalmed, but only dried, and still they show the soft parts well preserved (though, of course, completely dried up and shrivelled); and on moistening them with water, as I have often done, one obtains a preparation of the skeleton very similar to that which Barrett-Hamilton obtained from the mummied lemmings from the cave in Athouguia. As this cave, from the careful account of Gadow, was absolutely dry and had been so from the time that the dust was deposited, there is no reason why the lemmings should decay. They have been preserved completely, in spite of the length of time during which they have lain in the dust of the cave.

It is to be hoped that the Portuguese palæontologists will shortly find other lemming-remains in their country. The present paper may afford them some incentive in that direction.

XXXI.—On *Thylacomys*, Owen. By T. S. PALMER.

IN 1837 Reid * described the peculiar rabbit-bandicoot of Western Australia, from a specimen taken on Swan River, under the name *Perameles lagotis*. The distinctions between it and previously described species of *Perameles* were so marked that he suggested that the new form might be considered a distinct subgenus under the name *Macrotis*. This name, however, having been previously employed in entomology by Dejean in 1833, was untenable and has never come into general use.

Three years later, in 1840, Blyth † adopted Reid's suggestion, but used *Thylacomys* for the genus on the authority of Owen. Blyth's explanation is as follows:—"Two or three more [bandicoots] have been indicated, one of which, *P. lagotis*, Reid, is ranged by Prof. Owen as THE PHILANDER (*Thylacomys*, Owen). The only known species (*Per. lagotis*, Reid) is a nimble-looking and handsome animal, greyish, and as large as the common opossum."

In 1841 Gray ‡ made *P. lagotis* the type of his subgenus

* Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1836, no. xlvi. pp. 129-131 (June 27, 1837). Reid states that his specimen came from Van Diemen's Land; but according to Thomas the type specimen in the British Museum is from Swan River, Western Australia.

† Cuvier's 'Animal Kingdom,' 1840, p. 104; 1863, p. 92. I have not seen the original edition of this book, but have examined the reprint of 1849 and the edition of 1863, both of which are practically identical.

‡ J. E. Gray in Grey's Journ. Two Exped. North-west and West Australia, App. II. 1841, p. 401.

Paragalia, variously spelled *Perigalea* (Gray, 1843), *Paragalea* (Gray, 1843), *Peragalea* (Gould, 1845), *Peragale* (Thomas, 1887), and under this name the genus has since been generally known.

Thomas, in referring to the rabbit-bandicoot in his 'Catalogue of Marsupialia and Monotremata in the British Museum,' 1888, says:—"Blyth (Cuv. An. K. p. 104, 1840) states that Prof. Owen had separated off 'The Philander, *Perameles lagotis*,' as a genus under the name of *Thylacomys*. I am, however, quite unable to find any distinction of the genus in Prof. Owen's papers, and therefore retain the well-known name given to the genus by Gray. Blyth's statement was, perhaps, based on a confused account of Gray's *Thylamys elegans* (= *Didelphys elegans*), a member of the group of opossums to which the latter author applied the name of 'Philander'" (pp. 221-222, footnote).

I have also searched for *Thylacomys* in Owen's early papers several times without success, until recently Dr. Chas. W. Richmond called my attention to a paragraph in the London 'Athenæum' which seems to clear up the uncertainty surrounding the name. Late in the year 1838 Owen read his paper "On the Osteology of the Marsupialia" before the Zoological Society of London. A brief report of the meeting of Oct. 9 which appeared in the London 'Athenæum' for Oct. 13, 1838, p. 747, contains the following statement:—"The reading of an elaborate paper, descriptive of the osteology of the *Marsupialia*, was commenced by Mr. Owen, who remarked on the great value of an acquaintance with the structure of the skeleton in determining the genera and species of this group of animals, and proposed the new genus *Thylacomys* for certain species presenting a peculiar conformation of the cranium." Owen's paper was published both in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London' and in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' and although in both cases the name is carefully omitted, it is quite certain, on account of the frequent mention of *Perameles lagotis*, that this is the species referred to in the 'Athenæum' report. Although this evidence may seem insufficient to establish the status of *Thylacomys* in 1838, it leaves no question as to the validity of the genus when taken in connexion with Blyth's adoption of the name in 1840 and his unequivocal statement:—" *P. lagotis*, Reid, is ranged by Prof. Owen as the Philander (*Thylacomys*, Owen)."

Thomas's objection that "Blyth's statement was based on a confused account of *Thylamys elegans*" does not seem to be well taken. Owen apparently used *Thylacomys* in reading

his paper before the Zoological Society, but for some reason withdrew the name before his paper appeared in print, and subsequently carefully avoided all reference to it. Under these circumstances it is perhaps better not to hold Owen responsible for *Thylacomys*, but to adopt it on the authority of Blyth, by whom it was published as a perfectly valid name one year prior to the appearance of *Paragalia*, Gray.

Thus, of the three names based on the rabbit-bandicoot (*Perameles lagotis*), *Macrotis* is preoccupied, *Paragalia* or *Peragale* is antedated, and *Thylacomys*, the first tenable name for the genus, should be adopted on the ground of priority.

XXXII.—Notes on the Orthopterous Genus *Phyllophora*.

By W. F. KIRBY, F.L.S., F.E.S.

[Plate VI.]

THE *Phyllophorinæ* are a small subfamily of *Mecopodidæ* distinguished by the prothorax being produced backwards triangularly into a large and more or less pointed hood, always spinose, dentated, or crenulated on the sides.

The number of species described is not large, and I do not at present propose to break up the old genus *Phyllophora*, but only to enumerate the described species, clearing up the synonymy as far as possible and describing some new forms.

It should be noted that most of the species, if not all, are probably green when alive, unless the same species may be either green or brown when living, as is the case in some Orthoptera.

Genus PHYLLOPHORA.

Phyllophora, Thunb. Mém. Acad. Pétersb. v. pp. 219, 286 (1815).

“*Thorax* rhombeo-planus, marginatus, deflexus, acuminatus.
Hemelytra elliptico-ovata, deflexa, grandia, nervosa, alas et abdomen
tegentia.”

Hyperhomala, Serv. Ann. Sci. Nat. xxii. p. 161 (1831).

Hyperomala, Boisd. Voy. Astrolabe, Ent. ii. p. 649 (1835); Serv. Ins.
Orth. p. 544 (1839).

The types of all the above names belong to the second section of the genus.

Species not yet represented in the Natural History Museum are marked with an asterisk.