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On the development of the Echinidæ

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MISCELLANEOUS.

Description of a new rapacious Bird in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. By JOHN CASSIN.

Cymindis Wilsonii, nobis. ♂. Body above entirely dark brown, palest on the head, beneath white; every feather from chin to under tail-coverts crossed by several bars of bright rufous chestnut, and these colours extending upwards into a collar around the neck; fourth, fifth and sixth primaries longest and nearly equal, external webs nearly black, internal webs of outer primaries white at base and for nearly half their length, the remaining part reddish inclining to chestnut, every primary (on its inner web) having two irregularly-shaped black marks and tipped with black. Tail of the same colour as the back but paler, white at base, and crossed by about four broad bars which are nearly black, the second bar from the tip accompanied by a narrow, rather indistinct bar of rufous; tip of tail narrowly edged with white. Bill very large, (larger than in any other species of this genus,) yellowish white, inclining to bluish horn-colour at base.

♀. Body above entirely slate-colour, palest on the head, beneath barred with the same, the bars having a ferruginous tinge.

Total length of mounted specimen, from tip of bill to end of tail, 17 inches.

Hab. Island of Cuba.

The two specimens here described were presented to the Academy by its esteemed member, Richard C. Taylor, Esq.

The bill in this species is very large in proportion to the size of the bird, and it agrees moreover tolerably well with the *written* description of *Falco magnirostris*, Gmelin; so does the young *Cymindis uncinatus*, Illig. All authors however, except Dr. Latham, clearly understand the *F. magnirostris* to be the bird figured in Enl. 464, which is a common South American species of the genus *Astur*.

Dr. Latham, in his article on *F. magnirostris*, Gen. Hist. vol. 1. p. 282, gives a description of a bird suspected by him to be the species intended by Gmelin, which applies very well to *Cymindis cayanensis*, Gm., in young plumage, but not to *C. Wilsonii*.

I have named this species in honour of Dr. Thomas B. Wilson, as a slight tribute to his merits as a man, and his munificence as a patron of zoological science.—*Silliman's Journal for Sept.* 1847.

On the Development of the Echinidæ. By Dr. DUFOSSÉ.

The author adds some further facts to the observations previously communicated* relative to the development of the *Echinus* during the second period of its embryonal life, that is to say, from the moment of the escape of the larva from the egg to that when it becomes fixed. Between the sixth and twelfth day after its escape from the egg, a considerable quantity of agglomerated globules, forming a conical mass around the mouth, become apparent. A cavity is soon produced in the centre of this mass, and shortly afterwards the intestinal canal becomes evident and is seen to grow gradually longer. At the same

* See p. 282 of the April Number for this year.

time the entire body is elongated in the same direction and becomes perfectly pyriform. The digestive canal when it has reached four-fifths of its length curves back, the teguments of this side are slightly depressed, and an aperture is formed there which is the anus. At this period a small body formed of three branches, united at one extremity, begins to appear beneath the teguments on each side of the mouth; each branch of these organs, which may be called *spurs*, subsequently elongates and divides on the surface of the teguments into two or three small spines. The body however of the larva of the *Echinus* does not long remain pyriform, it soon assumes the appearance of a thimble, the aperture being replaced by a simple depression. The digestive canal becomes more and more regular, and then exhibits three portions well defined by restrictions: the first opens into the mouth, and may be called the œsophagus; the second, which is of considerable size, must be regarded as the stomach; the third, which is short and comparatively very narrow, is the intestine.—*Comptes Rendus, Aug.* 23, 1847.

On the Range of the Beaver in the United States. By S. B. Buckley.

In DeKay's 'Zoology of the State of New York' it is erroneously stated that the most southern limit of the beaver within the United States is the northern part of the State of New York. There were beavers living among the mountains of North Carolina in the year 1842, where I saw trees newly cut down by them, and I was informed by my guide that he had seen the beaver. This was in Haywood County, a few miles from Waynesville, on the Big Pigeon River,—a wild, rough region, abounding in grand scenery and rarely visited by man, being little known even to the hunters.—*Silliman's Journal for May* 1847.

ENEMIES TO SCIENCE AMONG THE NOBLES.

A great sensation has everywhere been excited by the fact, that men of science in the pursuit of knowledge have been obstructed in their peaceful investigations by certain peers and landed proprietors. The public press has indignantly protested against the right of these noblemen to shut up the highways and byways, and to depopulate whole districts of the country for the purpose of converting them into wild deer forests. With these, and many other grievous subjects of complaint, however, it is out of our province to speak. It is not as hunters and deer-stalkers we have to do with them. Neither can we dwell on the mortifications and hardships which the tourist in search of pleasure or health has experienced. What we are desirous of alluding to is the circumstance, that certain sporting lords and gentlemen, by obstructing the observations of naturalists, and by discourteously treating learned men in their botanical, geological, and mineralogical investigations as common trespassers on their estates, have earned for themselves the unenviable title of the Enemies of Science.

It is monstrous to suppose that the Braemar mountains, the Grampians, and Glen Tilt, are to be shut out from scientific investigation