

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

OF THE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OF LONDON

FOR THE YEAR

1863.



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LONDON :
MESSRS. LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMANS, AND ROBERTS,
PATERNOSTER ROW.

PARIS :
M. J. ROTHSCHILD,
14, RUE DE BUCY.

LEIPZIG :
M. J. ROTHSCHILD,
2, QUERSTRASSE.

Professor Baird describes the pupil of *Xantusia* as vertical; in our genus it is circular.

This similarity to *Xantusia* makes it probable that this genus is from Lower California.

M. Auguste Duméril, in the 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie' for 1852, describes and figures a new genus of Saurian under the name of *Lepidophyma flavimaculata* (t. 17), from the province of Peten in Central America, which resembles this Lizard in many particulars; but he particularly says that it has no femoral pores, which he says are found in all the *Zonures* with which he has compared it.

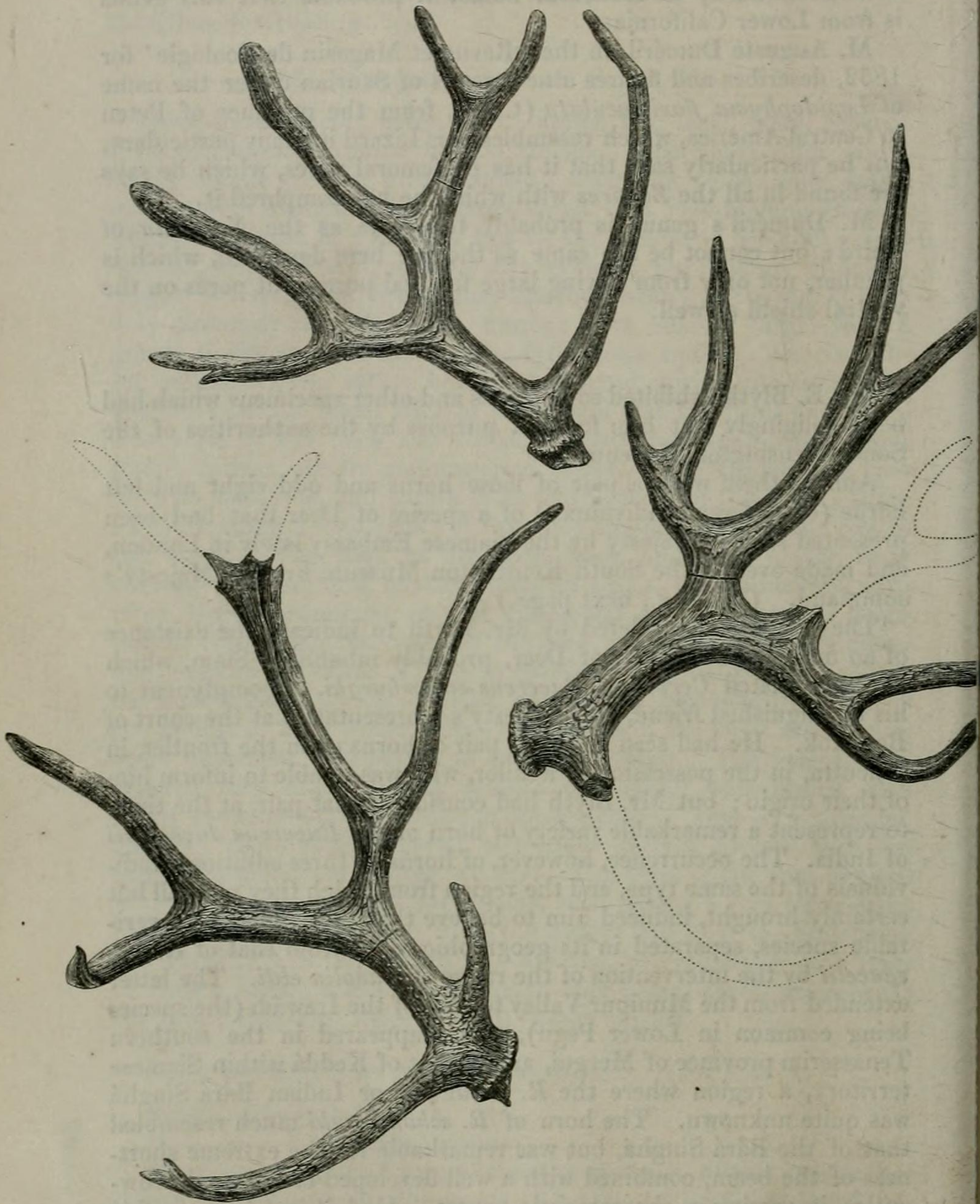
M. Duméril's genus is probably the same as the *Xantusia* of Baird; but cannot be the same as the one here described, which is peculiar, not only from having large femoral pores, but pores on the ventral shield as well.

Mr. E. Blyth exhibited some horns and other specimens which had been obligingly lent him for that purpose by the authorities of the South Kensington Museum.

Among them were a pair of loose horns and odd right and left horns (of different individuals) of a species of Deer that had been presented to Her Majesty by the Siamese Embassy lately in London, and made over to the South Kensington Museum by Her Majesty's command. (See figs., next page.)

The last were considered by Mr. Blyth to indicate the existence of an undescribed species of Deer, probably inhabiting Siam, which he denominated *Cervus* or *Rucervus schomburgki*, in compliment to his distinguished friend, Her Majesty's representative at the court of Bangkok. He had seen a similar pair of horns upon the frontlet, in Calcutta, in the possession of a sailor, who was unable to inform him of their origin; but Mr. Blyth had considered that pair, at the time, to represent a remarkable variety of horn of the *Rucervus duvaucelii* of India. The occurrence, however, of horns of three additional individuals of the same type, and the region from which they were all but certainly brought, induced him to believe that they indicated a veritable species, separated in its geographic range from that of *R. duvaucelii* by the intervention of the range of *Panolia eldi*. The latter extended from the Munipur Valley to that of the Irawádi (the species being common in Lower Pegu), and reappeared in the southern Tenasserim province of Mergui, and in that of Keddá within Siamese territory, a region where the *R. duvaucelii* or Indian Bárá Singhá was quite unknown. The horn of *R. schomburgki* much resembled that of the Bárá Singhá, but was remarkable for the extreme shortness of the beam, combined with a well-developed crown- and brow-antler, imparting a characteristic aspect. Had it not been for his extreme familiarity with the varieties of horns presented by the various Deer of India and neighbouring countries, Mr. Blyth would scarcely have ventured to consider the *Rucervus schomburgki* as distinct from *R. duvaucelii* of India, but under the circumstances he did not hesitate in regarding it as a second species of the same peculiar type.

A singularly contorted horn of a domestic Buffalo, also from Siam, was exhibited, gyring round much in the manner of an ordinary



Helix-shell, with the spires in absolute contact ; and, from the same country, the anterior and posterior horns of different individuals of *Rhinoceros sumatranus*, which Mr. Blyth considered to be identical with the *Rh. crossii* of Dr. Gray (figured in P. Z. S. 1854, p. 250). Dr. Gray's specimen in the British Museum, according to Mr. Blyth, measures but 16 inches (not 24 inches) in span from base to tip,

and was certainly referable to *Rh. sumatranus*. Mr. Bartlett possessed a posterior horn of the same species, received with various Dyak weapons, &c., from Borneo, where the species would exist together with *Rh. sondaicus* (v. *javanicus*); and Mr. Blyth had been apprised of a two-horned Rhinoceros having also been killed in Asám, where it was considered a great rarity. He had elsewhere shown (Journ. As. Soc. 1861, p. 151) that both *Rh. sondaicus* and *Rh. sumatranus* inhabit the Indo-Chinese region and Malayan peninsula, and that, so far as he could learn, they were the only Rhinoceroses of that great range of territory, as *Rh. sondaicus* (and not *Rh. indicus*) was the only known species inhabiting the eastern Sundarbans of Bengal.

Mr. Blyth next called the attention of the Meeting to a frontlet with horns of a peculiar species of Buffalo, supposed to be from Africa, but the origin of which was unknown. The specimen had long been hung up in the Museum of King's College, where it bore his MS. name *planiceros*, imposed nearly a quarter of a century ago. This specimen he was permitted to exhibit through the kindness of Professor Rymer Jones. A second and much younger example of the same species had long been exhibited in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, in the catalogue of which it had been assigned to the Gayál (*Bos frontalis*) of the Transbrahmaputran regions*, to which species it was not even specifically allied—it being unquestionably the frontlet of a veritable Buffalo, and of the African type, as distinguished from the Asiatic, as exemplified by *Bubalus caffer* and *B. brachyceros*.

Another frontlet, indicative of an undescribed species of presumably African Buffalo (indeed, stated to be from South Africa, which must now be considered doubtful) had long been in the Collection of the British Museum, where it is assigned in Dr. Gray's Catalogue of the Mammalia in that collection to *B. caffer*, juv.†; but it has the indisputable characters of maturity, and is very unlike the young of *B. caffer* of either sex, with the development of the horns of which species Mr. Blyth was acquainted from personal observation in the case of the living male. This second species he proposed to designate *B. reclinis*.

The figures exhibited (see woodcuts, next page), drawn on a scale of an inch to a foot (English measure), would impart a better idea than any description of the horns of *Bubalus brachyceros*, Gray, *B. reclinis*, and *B. planiceros*.

The two heads of *B. brachyceros* have been drawn from a pair of specimens in the National Collection, brought to England by the celebrated traveller Capt. Clapperton, from Bornou; the faces and ears having been rectified from a living cow formerly in the Surrey Zoological Gardens, upon which Dr. Gray had founded the species.

* 'Catalogue of the Contents of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, London,' pt. 3. p. 156, No. 1079. "The frontlet and horns of the Gyall."

† It is figured in the 'Catalogue of the Specimens of Mammalia in the Collection of the British Museum' (1852), pt. 3. *Ungulata furcipes*, tab. 2. fig. 3. "Pennant's specimen." Vide Grew, Rar. 26; Pennant's Syn. Br. Mus. Catal. (1862), p. 227, *Bubalus caffer*, "a. Frontal bone and horns; young."



Figs. 1, 1a, and 2 represent the sexes of *B. brachyceros*; figs. 3 and 3a, the *B. reclinis*; and figs. 4 and 4a, the *B. planiceros*.

May 12, 1863.

E. W. H. Holdsworth, Esq., F.Z.S., in the Chair.

A communication was read from Messrs. Joshua Alder and Albany Hancock, F.Z.S., entitled "Notice of a collection of Nudibranchiate