

2. On the probable Identity of certain Specimens, formerly in the Lidth de Jeude Collection, and now in the British Museum, with those figured by Albert Seba in his 'Thesaurus' of 1734. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

[Received April 5, 1892.]

In 1867 the British Museum purchased, through the late Mr. R. Damon, a large quantity of zoological specimens of all sorts out of the collection of Prof. Th. van Lidth de Jeude of Utrecht. Of the mammals, about 280 are preserved entire in old-fashioned glass jars with red wax tops, and 330 are skulls.

In the well-known folio work by Albert Seba, 'Locupletissimus rerum naturalium Thesaurus,' vol. i., there is a frontispiece with the author's portrait, and behind him are specimens in bottles so exactly like those of the Lidth de Jeude collection as to have attracted my attention to the circumstance; and although it has since proved that such bottles were used by Lidth de Jeude himself and others, yet as the suspicion thus aroused was confirmed by my finding some of the specimens to be similar to the animals figured by Seba in this work, a thorough examination has been made, with the startling and un hoped for result of showing that many of these Lidth de Jeude specimens are actually the very individual examples figured by Seba. Of course, one or two, or even five or six cases of resemblance might have been put down to accidental coincidences, but so large a number prove to correspond in every way to Seba's figures and descriptions, that I no longer have a doubt as to their being really Seba's specimens, carefully preserved by their successive possessors in the original hermetically sealed jars in which he placed them. Naturally, in the course of time, many have been lost, others have deteriorated and been destroyed, and others again have been alienated in ignorance of their special value and interest. But in spite of all, enough remain to raise their resemblance to Seba's figures far beyond the region of accidental coincidence, and, as each specimen identified increases the probabilities for the identification of the rest, in the aggregate to amount practically to a proof of the opinion now advocated. In fact the whole British Museum collection from other sources could not produce so many close resemblances to Seba's figures as occur in this one collection of Lidth de Jeude. It may be noted that, judging by the old tickets on the bottles, there appear to be two sets of specimens in the collection—the bottles of the one labelled with large printed numbers, and of the other with manuscript numbers, evidently of an earlier date; all the cases of asserted identity occur in the latter part of the collection, an evidence in itself that these have some common bond of origin. At the same time the importance of this piece of evidence is unfortunately much weakened by the fact that many of the identified specimens have



been rebottled, so that one cannot tell with certainty¹ to which part of the collection they belonged.

Owing in part probably to some of the intermediate possessors not having been interested in anything but Mammalia, and in part to the comparative absence of individuality in specimens of the lower classes, scarcely any identification has been made in other groups than the Mammalia. But as the Lidth de Jeude collection acquired by the Museum contains specimens of all classes, both of Vertebrates and Invertebrates, as did also the Seba cabinet, there is little doubt that some of Seba's specimens are contained in it, if only they could be identified. At the same time no members of other groups have upon them the old MS. labels to which I attach so much importance. Moreover, the Seba collection of Reptiles was wholly, or in part, purchased by the Emperor Peter the Great, and taken to St. Petersburg, where many of the specimens are still preserved². Unfortunately they were all rebottled some years ago, so that none are left in the original bottles; Dr. Strauch, however, as I am kindly informed by Dr. Büchner, well remembers that the bottles were exactly like those figured by Seba, and therefore like those of the Lidth de Jeude collection. As to the labels, several sorts seem to have been on the bottles, but none quite like those now on our bottles.

Among the Reptiles and Fishes, in the examination of which I have had the assistance of my colleague Mr. Boulenger, one snake (*Eunectes murinus*, 66.8.14.308) and one fish (*Chætostomus cirrhosus*, 66.8.14.154) agree so well with Seba's Vol. ii. pl. xxix. fig. 1 and Vol. iii. pl. xxix. fig. 12 respectively, that, viewed in conjunction with the Mammal identifications, it appears very probable that these specimens are Seba's originals, and that they escaped Peter the Great, and passed with the Mammals into the hands of Prof. Lidth de Jeude.

It is an unfortunate thing that none of the many eccentricities figured by Seba, such as the Cat with two bodies, &c., are identifiable, as they would have been better evidence of identity than any I am able to produce; but the fact is easily explicable, as the British Museum never has purchased or collected any such specimens, and therefore even if, as no doubt was the case, any of Seba's monstrosities were included in the "collection très remarquable de fœtus monstrueux" of the Lidth de Jeude collection, they would not

¹ In an interesting leaflet which I owe to the kindness of Mr. R. F. Damon of Weymouth, there is a rough classification of the Lidth de Jeude Museum, and among the chief headings is one of "Une série de fœtus des races humaines et des Mammifères." Now, on examining the Museum specimens bearing the printed Lidth de Jeude labels, I find that without exception they are either young specimens or else mothers containing fœtuses, so that we may presume that of the rebottled specimens those at least which are adult would not have had the printed numbers, and would therefore in all probability have had the old MS. labels upon them.

² See Strauch, Zool. Mus. St. Petersb. in seinem fünfzigjähr. Best. p. 192 (1889). Dr. Büchner informs me that a large part of this collection was destroyed by fire in St. Petersburg in 1747.

have been acquired by our own Museum; nor am I able to trace where they have gone.

Before proceeding to a detailed account of my identifications, I propose to give such scraps of historical evidence about the Seba and Lidth de Jeude collections as I have been able to get together, and I hope that these in course of time will be supplemented by other similar items of information.

Firstly, from the preface to the fourth volume of the 'Thesaurus' we learn that, although Seba himself died in 1736, the collection was not dispersed until 1752, when it was sold by public auction in Amsterdam.

It next, probably not very long afterwards¹, passed into the possession of the Stadtholder, William V. of Holland, or at least of his guardians, he being a boy of four at the time of the sale. But when the French occupied Holland and the Stadtholder fled in 1795, the invaders, as was their habit in regard to objects of art and science, brought back with them to Paris certain of the specimens of the Stadtholder's collection. Of these, or at least of the Mammals, a list has most fortunately been preserved in the Archives of the Paris Museum, a copy of which I owe to the kindness of Prof. A. Milne-Edwards. This list, however (see below p. 317), shows that no such specimens as are now attempted to be identified went to Paris at that time. Indeed, such specimens as these animals in spirit would not have been very attractive to the French military and unscientific collectors, and they therefore, no doubt, remained in Holland, but in whose hands I cannot trace.

The next reference is one which, so far as it goes, is antagonistic to the idea of any of Seba's spirit-specimens having been preserved until now, and it deserves, therefore, careful consideration. In 1853 Temminck, the famous head of the Leyden Museum, made the two following statements² :—

"Seba rassemblait, sans choix ni ordre systématique, toutes sortes d'objets curieux; parmi les mammifères, les monstres et les fœtus étaient les plus nombreux; toute sa collection, conservée à l'esprit de vin dans des bocaux de verre, était, après sa mort, en grande partie détériorée." And :—

"Il y a plusieurs années (cinquante ans à peu-près) que je fis l'acquisition de quelques bocaux, provenant des débris des collections de Seba; dans ce nombre se trouvait un très-jeune individu de notre *Spiniger*; il était totalement décoloré et à peine reconnaissable. Ce sujet, qu'on a monté, se trouve dans nos galeries. C'est peut-être l'individu type du *Cervus perpusillus* ou bien de *Cervus pergracilis* de Seba."

¹ Perhaps Pallas visited Amsterdam in the interval, for in 1797 (Nov. Glires, p. 314) he says of *Mus longipes* (Seba, vol. ii. plate xxix. fig. 2): "vidi quondam Amstelodami e Museo Sebae reliquum specimen in collectione DN. Chr. Paul Meier, mercatoris." Later on he speaks of this specimen as having been a skin, so that it could not be one of our specimens, but might have been one of the "Deux Gerboises de la petite espèce" that went to Paris (see below, p. 317).

² Esq. Z. Guin. pp. 202, 203 (1853).

Now in reference to these serious statements, it may be observed that Seba's great collection consisted of mammals, birds, reptiles, scorpions, shells, echinoderms, and many other invertebrates, and might, therefore, easily be "en grande partie détériorée," especially as regards the softer and more destructible invertebrates, and yet leave the majority of the mammals unhurt; while, as regards the Royal Antelope ("notre *Spiniger*"), of course the accidental opening or leakage of a single bottle would imply the destruction of its contents. But except for Temminck's bare statement, and it is by no means certain that he really knew much about the condition of "toute la collection," he only having obtained "quelques bocaux," there seems to be no reason whatever that specimens preserved as these are in hermetically sealed bottles and in good preserving fluid should be really seriously deteriorated merely by the lapse of time. Certainly, judging by the present condition of the Lidth de Jeude collection, there seems to be no reason against their having been in the bottles they now are for the past 160 years, or, if untouched, for their remaining very much in their present condition for centuries more.

Of other references to this collection, at this time or later, I can find no trace. Probably it got into the hands of one or several successive private and scientifically unknown collectors of curiosities before coming into the possession of Prof. Lidth de Jeude.

Of the latter's museum, we only know what is stated in the preface to his sale-catalogue of 1858. In this he utters a pathetic lament at being forced to part with his collection, the result of half a century's labour. This period would carry back the commencement of his collecting to 1808, a date very near that when some of the Seba specimens were certainly still in existence, as we know from Temminck. Among the collections and even "Musées entiers" which he acquired during the half-century were those of "Mr. le Baron van der Capellen, ancien Gouverneur des Indes Orientales, Mr. van Klinkenberg, amateur zélé à Utrecht, Messrs. Muller, Draak, etc."

Of these gentlemen the first would not have been likely to possess a general collection, of the last two I know nothing; but of the second, the most likely sounding of all, thanks to the kind researches of Dr. F. A. Jentink, of the Leyden Museum, we know that his full name was Gysbert Johannes van Klinkenberg, that he set up as an apothecary in Utrecht in 1802, that he had large Natural History collections, and that these were sold by auction on Nov. 8, 1841. The majority of the specimens were bought by Prof. Lidth de Jeude, but as this was done privately no sale-catalogue of them was printed. It may be noted, however, that among the books sold¹ at that sale there were *two* copies of Seba's 'Thesaurus,' rather a cumbrous work for an ordinary collector to have in duplicate, if he had not had some special reason for possessing them.

¹ I must sincerely thank Dr. Jentink for the care and trouble that he has taken in helping me to trace out the history of this collection, and, among other things, for having lent me a copy of this rare sale-catalogue, as well as a marked copy of Lidth de Jeude's own catalogue.

This being all the historical evidence that I have been able to gather about the Seba and Lidth de Jeude collections, I need scarcely say that I shall be most grateful to anyone who may happen to find any pertinent references to either of them and who would give me information thereof.

To pass now to the evidence derived from the specimens themselves and their agreements with the Seba's descriptions and figures.

In the first volume of Seba's work about 90 Mammalia are figured and described, and 7 in the second. Of these we must eliminate those that were probably among the Paris set (see below), besides a considerable number more which, owing to their size, could not have been preserved in spirit, and such again as Seba states were not in his own collection. This would leave some 70 or 80 for which originals may be sought. Many of these are of animals so rare, even to the present day, that their independent possession both by Seba and Lidth de Jeude would itself be unlikely; and still more unlikely that the specimens belonging to the latter should have been able so closely to match the figures given by the former, in age, size, and above all in sex, a point on which Seba was fortunately very careful to give particulars.

Of the cases put forward in the following list, some few depend of course merely on an ordinary specific resemblance, and one can only say that there is no disqualifying point, such as wrong sex or age; but in others, and indeed in the majority, there is a strong individual resemblance between the figure and the specimen, often confirmed by some collateral evidence extracted from Seba's descriptions. Such cases as those of the Opossums with their varying numbers of mammae visible or in use, of the *Lutra brasiliensis* with its wrinkled sides, and of the pair of *Tamias* with the right sexes and number of stripes respectively, are far beyond anything that one could possibly suppose might be due merely to accidental coincidence.

In the table now exhibited (pp. 314-15) the first column gives the number of the plate and figure in Seba, the second the name of the species, and the third the British Museum register-number of the specimen I assign to the figure. These specimens will of course always be open to the inspection and comparison of anyone interested in the subject.

It is unfortunate that, before the history of the collection was suspected, many of the specimens were taken out for examination and rebottled in modern bottles, but in all cases the fact of their having actually come from the Lidth de Jeude collection is beyond question. Without such taking out, however, exact specific determination is occasionally very difficult, and some animals are therefore inserted in the table merely under their generic names, as without very special reason it would not be right to unseal the ancient and interesting bottles which contain them.

Seba, Plate and Figure.	Name.	Museum register- no. of Lidth de Jeude specimen.	Remarks.	
Vol. I. XXXI. 1. " 2.	<i>Didelphys murina</i> , ♂. <i>Didelphys murina</i> , ♀.	67.4.12 541 542	Mammæ said to be 7 or 9 in text, but only shown as 7 in plate. Specimen with 9 in use, but only 7 easily visible. Full number 11.	
" 5.	<i>Didelphys murina</i> , ♀, and 6 young on back.	546	Specimen with 7 young, but the artist has represented as many as he could get in. Mother and young were all in one Lidth de Jeude bottle together, but unfortunately they were all taken out in 1887 and stuffed.	
" 6. XXXII. 1. " 5. XXXIII. 2. XXXVI. 4.	<i>Didelphys brevicaudata</i> , ♀. <i>Talpa europea</i> . <i>Chrysocloris aurea</i> . <i>Bradypus cuculliger</i> . <i>Didelphys philander</i> , ♀.	540 558 564 579 414	Common albino variety; several in the collection. Rare species.	
XL. 2. XLI. 1. " 3. XLII. 1.	<i>Procyon cancrivorus</i> , juv. <i>Herpestes griseus</i> . <i>Sciuropterus volucella</i> , ♂. <i>Nasua rufa</i> , imm.	455 452 494 447	Four prominent mammæ drawn. Specimen has 4 developed out of the full number of 7. The same bottle also contains several young specimens very fairly corresponding to the letterpress of XXXVI. 3. "On y voit aussi plusieurs petites femelles, dont les petites bourses sont étroitement fermées."	“ From Ceylon.” Specimen kept alive; no doubt drawn from life and then, as specially mentioned, drowned and placed in preserving fluid. From Virginia. Received alive from Surinam.

	2.	<i>Lutra brasiliensis</i> , juv.						
XLVII.	2.	<i>Tamias asiaticus</i> , ♂.						
	445		The figure shows a series of peculiar transverse stripes on the flanks. The specimen has been compressed into too small a bottle, and has had a number of marked transverse wrinkles formed along its sides thereby. "Conservé dans une liqueur."					
	479		The extraordinary tail of the figure is of course an impossibility for this or any other specimen. But the floating out in bundles of the long hairs of the tail in the liquid may have given rise to the idea that the tail itself was "fendu en quatre." In other respects the figure and description agree remarkably well with this specimen.					
	491		This and the last make a very noticeable pair of correspondences to the two Chipmunks figured by Seba.					
XLVIII.	2.	<i>Felis tigrina</i> .						
XLIX.	1 & 2.	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> , imm.						
	4 & 5.	<i>Erinaceus</i> , sp., ♂. <i>↑</i>						
"	L.	<i>Babirusa alatus</i> , skull.						
LV.	1.	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i> , ♂.						
	2.	<i>Hemiderma brevicaudatum</i> , ♀.						
LVI.	2.	<i>Kerivoula picta</i> , ♀.						
	3.	<i>Kerivoula picta</i> , ♂.						
LVII.	2.	<i>Pteropus vampyrus</i> , ♂.						
Vol. II.								
VIII.	3.	<i>Sorex</i> , sp.						
LXIII.	5.	<i>Crocidura</i> , sp.						
	570		Specimen apparently <i>S. vulgaris</i> .					
	569							

Besides these cases there are a large number of instances, such as the young Opossum figured on Plates XXXI. & XXXVI., where although it is impossible to fix on individual specimens as their originals, yet practically the Lidth de Jeude collection does contain specimens fairly corresponding with them. Further research again will, I hope, reveal some few more cases of close identities, as I cannot feel that I have by any means exhausted the possibilities in this direction.

It would appear certain, then, that so large a number of resemblances as the above cannot be merely an accident, especially when some of the more remarkable cases are taken into account, and I can, therefore, only reiterate my belief that these are the actual specimens from which Seba took his figures.

But besides its extreme interest, this fact has a special scientific importance, for in many cases systematic names have been given, primarily or solely, to Seba's figures, and therefore, where the originals of these figures can be identified, the specimens are clearly the types of the species.

The tracing of such names, however, can only be properly done in connection with the systematic working out of the different groups, and the following cases are therefore only those of which I now have clear evidence and are perhaps but a small proportion of those which really exist.

Names of Species founded on Seba's figures, for which typical specimens have been identified.

<i>Chryschloris aurea</i> ¹ , Zimm. Geogr. Gesch. ii. p. 391 (1780).	Founded on Seba, XXXII. 4 & 5.
Specimen 67.4.12.564.	
" <i>Vespertilio</i> " <i>vampyrus</i> ² , Linn. Syst. Nat. (10) p. 31 (1758).	Founded on LVII. 1 & 2.
Specimen 67.4.12.325. <i>Pteropus edulis</i> , spec. <i>g</i> , Cat. Chir. B. M. p. 51.	
<i>Kerivoula picta</i> , Pall. Spic. Zool. iii. p. 7. Founded on LVI. 2 & 3.	
Specimens 67.4.12.342-3. <i>l</i> ³ of Cat. Chir. B. M. p. 334.	
<i>Noctilio leporinus</i> , Linn. Syst. Nat. (10) i. p. 32 (1758). Founded on LV. 1.	
Specimen 67.4.12.339. <i>f</i> of Cat. Chir. B. M. p. 396.	
<i>Didelphys philander</i> , Linn. t. c. p. 54. Founded on XXXVI. 4.	
Specimen 67.4.12.414. <i>g</i> of Cat. Mars. p. 338.	
<i>Didelphys murina</i> , Linn. t. c. p. 55. Founded on XXXI. 1 & 2.	
Specimens 67.4.12.541 & 2. <i>x</i> and <i>z</i> of Cat. Mars. p. 347.	
<i>Didelphys dorsigera</i> , Linn. <i>l. c.</i> Founded on XXXI. 5.	
Specimen 67.4.12.546. <i>f'</i> (of <i>D. murina</i>) Cat. Mars. p. 347.	
<i>Didelphys brevicaudata</i> , Erxl. Syst. R. A. p. 80. Founded on XXXI. 6.	
Specimen 67.4.12.540. <i>b</i> of Cat. Mars. p. 358.	

¹ Linnæus's name "*asiatica*" is equally founded on this specimen, but, being erroneous, is not admissible.

² This will affect the name of the species, which will have to stand as *Pteropus vampyrus*, L. Even if the identification of the specimen is wrong, however, Seba's LVII. 1 & 2 clearly represent what has been known as *Pt. edulis*, Geoff., so that the change would have to take place in any case.

³ The male specimen accidentally omitted from the list in the Catalogue.

Finally, in order to focus as far as possible all the existing information about the Seba cabinet, I have thought it well to reproduce just as it stands the list, obligingly hunted out for me by Prof. Milne-Edwards, of the specimens taken to Paris. The numbers placed in brackets are those of the Seba plates and figures which *may* be those of the specimens mentioned. How many of these interesting specimens still remain in the Paris Museum after the lapse of nearly a century, I will leave my *confrères* of that great institution to determine ; but I am afraid there cannot be many, as the specimens seem to have been for the most part perishable skins or stuffed specimens.

Liste des animaux envoyés de la Haye l'an III.¹ de la République Française.

(Cabinet du Stathouder.)

- Un Hippopotame adulte.
- Un Hippopotame jeune.
- Une tête de Narwal avec la corne.
- Un Fourmilier de Cayenne [XXXVIII. 2, XL. 1, or Vol. II. XLVII. 2].
- Un Pangolin [LIV. 1].
- Un Singe nasique.
- Un Tatou ² [XXXVII. 2].
- Portion de crâne et cornes de Coudou.
- Deux peaux de Coudou, ♂ ♀.
- Deux peaux du Buffle bleu du Cap.
- Trois peaux de Chat-tigre.
- Une peau de Rhinocéros bicorné (jeune).
- Deux peaux de Bubale, ♂ ♀ [XLII. 4].
- Un Tapir.
- Un Gerboise de la grande espèce.
- Un Cochon sanglier sauvage de Surinam [? L. 2].
- Un petit Singe d'une espèce particulière [? XLVII. 1].
- Une Loutre blanche.
- Un Renard blanc.
- Deux Gerboises de la moyenne espèce.
- Deux Gerboises de la petite espèce [? II., XXIX. 2].
- Un Faisan perlé de la Chine.
- Des peaux d'Antilopes.
- Un Eléphant avec son poil follet.
- Un Sanglier du Cap qui a vécu à la Haye.
- Un Daim du Cap.
- Une sorte de Renard [? XXX. 1].
- Un Cerf du Cap.
- Un Castor de Westphalie.
- Deux têtes de Babouines à dents dorées.
- Un Paresseux de haute taille [XXXIV. 1].
- Une jolie Chèvre de Surinam [? XLII. 3].
- Des Ecureuils volants.
- Un Bouquetin.
- Une tête de Rhinocéros à doubles cornes.

Some Reptiles were also taken, as several of Seba's specimens are known to be in the Paris Museum.

¹ Sept. 1794 to Sept. 1795.

² See I. Geoff. C. R. xxiv. p. 572 (1847).

Adding to this list the Royal Antelope (*Nanotragus pygmæus*), said by Temminck to be possibly the original of **XLIII. 2**, and the specimens asserted by Sundevall to be perhaps those of **XLIII. 1 & 2**¹, we are able to account, with the Lidth de Jeude specimens now in the British Museum, for a very large proportion of Albert Seba's historical collection of Mammalia.

3. Descriptions of new Species of Lepidoptera Heterocera from Brazil, Mexico, and Peru.—Part II.² By W. SCHÄUS, F.Z.S.

[Received April 29, 1892.]

The following descriptions are all taken from specimens in my own collection, and, with the exception of those from Peru, they were collected by myself.

Fam. LASIOCAMPIDÆ.

ORMISCODES OPIS.

Primaries above reddish brown; a basal straight, and an outer oblique, transverse grey band; a marginal wavy whitish shade; a long white streak at the end of the cell. Secondaries reddish brown; a median transverse greyish band and a submarginal dark brown shade. Underneath brown, the outer portion of the wings crossed by four bands of whitish scales. Head and thorax reddish brown. Abdomen black dorsally, whitish between the segments; anal segment red; underneath reddish brown.

Expanse 100 mm. ♀.

Hab. Petropolis, Brazil.

LONOMIA CARNICA.

Male. Above red, the wings crossed from the apex of the primaries to the middle of the inner margin on the secondaries by a broad black line, divided by a greyish shade; on the primaries two discal spots, the anterior one blackish, the posterior one white. Underneath pale brownish red, with broad, marginal, paler shades; the transverse line very narrow and indistinct, inwardly shaded with white; on the primaries two white discal spots; on the secondaries a black discal spot circled with white; a large black spot at the apex.

Expanse 80 mm.

Hab. Petropolis, Brazil.

PREPTOS, nov. gen

Antennæ minutely pectinated, and with long tufts of hairs at

¹ Pecora, p. 303 (1847). I have to thank Prof. W. Leche, of Stockholm, for information about the present condition of these specimens. See also Brooke, P. Z. S. 1872, p. 637.

² For Part I. see above, p. 272.