

however, exhibited some excellent photographs of the animal in question, and of *R. Indicus*, and pointed out the differences in the structure of the epidermal exoskeleton in the two species.

Mr. Wood-Mason exhibited the materials for his monograph of *Paratelphusa*, an Indo-Malayan genus of freshwater crabs, of which he recognized altogether seven perfectly distinct and well-marked species; of these five had been or are now described by himself. The genus, he said, was established in 1855 by M. Milne-Edwards for the reception of two new species of crabs, one of which was supposed to have come from the China Seas, the other from New Zealand; but the localities given had proved to be incorrect, the former being really a native of the freshwaters of Southern China and Siam, the latter of those of the three great Sunda Islands—Java, Sumatra, and Borneo. Mr. Wood-Mason, in 1871, himself described two additional species, the one from upper Burmah, the other from India, wherein it ranged from Hardwár, the point at which the Ganges issues from the Siwálik Hills, throughout the Gangetic valley down to Calcutta, where brackish water conditions obtained, and where it occurred both in fresh and brackish water like several of its congeners. It was an interesting fact that all the species described by him inhabited countries the fauna of which was largely leavened, to say the least, with Malay forms, if indeed such forms did not predominate. We were indebted to Mr. W. T. Blanford, than whom nobody had ever done more for the distribution of animals in India, for dividing up the vast tract of country commonly called India into a number of zoological sub-provinces, to one of which, *viz.*, to that denominated by him the Eastern Bengal Province, with the Burmese countries and Assam added, the *Paratelphusas* were confined: Calcutta, Mr. Blanford had said, was on the edge of this province and rather in than outside of it; and Calcutta accordingly had its species of the genus in its common tank-crab. If we turned from these invertebrates to seek an instance amongst the higher animals of this Malayan leaven in the fauna, no more conspicuous one could possibly be found than the interesting animal represented in one of the beautiful photographs exhibited,—the *Rhinoceros Sondaicus*, which inhabited not only the Sunderbans near Calcutta but the great island of Java also. In conclusion, Mr. Wood-Mason said that he could not but look forward with much interest to see whether species of *Paratelphusa* would be found in Ceylon and in Malabar, the fauna of which curiously enough was also Malayan.

The following are the new species:

*Paratelphusa Martensi.*

Latero-anterior margins of carapace armed with three epibranchial teeth, the first tooth flattened, similar to the extraorbital angle but smaller, the rest salient, acute, and conical. Post-abdomen of the male triangular—as in *P. Dayana*, W-M.

*Hab.*—Throughout the Gangetic valley, from Hardwár to Jessor.

*Paratelphusa Edwardsi.*

Latero-anterior margins of carapace with four teeth, the teeth all equal and similar to one another, large, almost conical, and very salient. Carapace considerably areolated, longitudinally very convex, antero-lateral margins much inclined, post-frontal crest well-developed. Post-abdomen of the male as in the preceding.

*Hab.*—Cachar, Saddy, and the Gáro-, Nágá-, and Dafla-hills.

*Paratelphusa crenulifera.*

Latero-anterior margins of carapace with four teeth, the teeth tolerably well-developed and salient, flattened, diminishing gradually in size from before backwards. Carapace perfectly smooth, depressed, longitudinally but slightly convex, antero-lateral margins hardly inclined. Frontal and orbital margins conspicuously, the edges of the feebly-developed post-frontal crest and of the epibranchial teeth faintly crenulate. Post-abdomen of the male as in the preceding.

*Hab.*—Pegu Yomah.

Mr. Wood-Mason next exhibited a specimen of the beautiful macrurous crustacean long ago described and accurately figured by Herbst ('*Krabben und Krebse*', Band II, Heft 5, 1794, S. 173, T. XLIII, F. 2.) under the name of *Astacus modestus*. This remarkable crustacean, like the *Astacus zaleucus*, v. W.-S. for which the new generic title *Thaumastocheles* had recently been proposed (P. A. S. B., 1874, p. 181), was an example of a transitional form connecting the two families, *Thalassinidæ* and *Astacidæ*: in *Thaumastocheles zaleucus* the facies of the former family was combined with characters that entered into the usual definition of the latter: *Eutrichocheles*, as he proposed generically to designate the species described by Herbst, on the other hand, was indubitably, as the totality of its organism showed, a member of the latter presenting certain structural arrangements which were unmistakable marks of real affinity to the former. The *Calliaxis adriatica* of Heller was just such another transitional form. In fact, it was now, in his opinion, impossible to frame such a definition of either family as would exclude all the members of the other owing to the number of the connecting links. The *Eutrichocheles modestus* was also especially interesting as being the nearest known blood-relation of the remarkable blind crayfish described two or three years ago under the name of *Nephropsis Stewarti*. In conclusion, Mr. Mason said that he had long been engaged in the comparative study of these and various other allied forms, and that he hoped shortly to be able to formulate the results at which he had arrived.

Mr. Wood-Mason also exhibited several new species of Stomatopod crustaceans, viz. *Clorida decorata*, with eyes as in *C. microphthalma* M.-Edw. and *C. Latreillei*, Ey. and Soul., the inner margin of the sabre-like

appendage, of the lateral portions of the caudal swimmeret armed with fine, acuminate spines, and the telson vermiculated above and below with granulated ridges, claw of raptorial arm 5-toothed—from the Andamans: *Coronis spinosa*, with three spines projecting from the telson just above the level of the marginal ones, of which there are three pairs, the median pair movable and smaller than the rest and with the interval between them finely serrated (5 or 6 teeth on each side of the middle line), between these and each lateral pair two spinules, between the teeth of each lateral pair one spinule; claw of raptorial arm 10-toothed—from the Andamans and New Zealand: *Gonodactylus glyptocercus*, allied to *G. trispinosus*, with the telson ornamented with two oval tubercles bounded by an impressed invected line and with a median basal cinquefoil-shaped one, and the two preceding somites symmetrically engraved with fine lines—from the Nicobars; and *Squilla supplex*, with three short oblique ridges on each side of the telson, between which and the strong median ridge, on each side, a row of confluent tubercles in the same straight line with the two median marginal teeth; five teeth to the claw of the raptorial arms; post-abdominal somites with 9 ridges, arranged 3 in the middle and 3 on each side—from Bombay.

The following papers were read:

1. *On some Lizards from Sind, with descriptions of new Species of Ptyodactylus, Stenodactylus, and Trapelus.*—By W. T. BLANFORD, F. R. S.

(Abstract.)

This paper contains notes on a collection of lizards made in Sind in the early months of 1875. Five species are added to the fauna of British India, two of which, *Stellio nuptus* and *Hemidactylus Persicus*, were previously known from Persia, whilst three appear to be new. These are described as:

*Ptyodactylus homolepis*, sp. nov.

Allied to *P. Hasselquisti*, but distinguished by having all the dorsal scales uniformly granular, without any enlarged tubercles, and the nostrils entirely surrounded by swollen shields 3 or 4 in number which separate them entirely from the rostral and labials. A perfect specimen measures  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, of which the tail is 3.4. Found in the lower hills of the Khirthar range, west of Upper Sind.

*Stenodactylus orientalis*, sp. nov.

General form stout, tail much thicker than in *S. guttatus*, finely granular throughout; nostril between the corner of the rostral and three small shields, upper labials on each side about 10, lower 10—13, both becoming small behind: pupil vertical. No enlarged chin-shields behind the lower labials. Upper surface finely granular, with small convex dark coloured tubercles scattered over the back; none on the limbs. Scales of abdomen scarcely