

THE REPTILES AND FISHES OF LORD HOWE ISLAND.

REPTILES.

IF we exclude the Green Turtle, which has not been found since 1789, the recent Reptiles recorded from Lord Howe Island are but three in number, and all belong to the Lacertilian group: of two of these the Museum now possesses excellent series. So far as I know none of them have as yet been obtained in New Zealand*, and only the first of them has been recorded with any degree of certainty from Australia, this example, which is in the British Museum, having been obtained at Champion Bay, N. W. Australia, but not recorded from any intermediate locality; it is also found on Phillip Island, an outlying rock off Norfolk Island, on which latter strange to say no reptiles whatever occur. The second has a very wide range through Polynesia and New Guinea to the Moluccas, and has been doubtfully recorded from Port Essington, while the third species seems to be peculiar to the island.

GECKONIDÆ.

PHYLLODACTYLUS, *Gray.*

PHYLLODACTYLUS GUENTHERI, *Blg.*

There is now in the Museum a fine series of this Gecko in all stages of growth. The members of the various expeditions agree in stating that it is much more abundant in the vicinity of the coast than on the more elevated districts inland.

GEHYRA, *Gray.*

GEHYRA OCEANICA, *Less., sp.*

The British Museum contains a specimen collected on the island by the late Mr. J. Macgillivray.

SCINCIDÆ.

LYGOSOMA, *Gray.*

LYGOSOMA LICHENIGERUM, *O'Shgn., sp.*

The remarks under the first species apply equally to this Lizard.

* There is no record, so far as I am aware, of the occurrence of *Gehyra oceanica* in New Zealand, though from its wide Polynesian range it seems strange that it is not found at least in the northern district of the North Island.

FISHES.

THE present catalogue of the Fishes of Lord Howe Island is as complete as the means at my disposal allow, having been compiled from the following sources:—(i) The British Museum Catalogue of Fishes, 1859–70, by Dr. Albert Günther, who however appears to have been acquainted with a single species only, and that of very doubtful authenticity; (ii) specimens collected by Captain Armstrong, late Resident Magistrate of the island, and forwarded by him to the Museum; (iii) a collection made by Mr. A. Morton; (iv) a fish presented to the Hon. Wm. Macleay by the late Mr. H. T. Wilkinson, at that time the Visiting Magistrate, and which is undoubtedly the most interesting of the entire collection, as proving the existence of the genus *Tetragonurus* in the southern hemisphere, while the species itself is absolutely identical with Lowe's Atlantic species*; (v) Fishes presented to the Museum from time to time by Mr. Langley; (vi) specimens in the Macleay Collection at Elizabeth Bay, and kindly placed at my disposal by the owner; (vii) the collection formed by Messrs. R. Etheridge, jun., T. Whitelegge, and J. Thorpe; and (viii) the specimens obtained by Mr. E. H. Saunders. The two latter collections, the first of which was specially organized and equipped by the Australian Museum, yielded by far the most important results, and added greatly to our knowledge of the Biology and Palæontology of this interesting oceanic islet.

It is unfortunately out of my power to give any definite account of the Palæichthyan fishes of the island, but from information elicited from Messrs. Etheridge, Langley, and Saunders, I am convinced that *Galeocerdo raymeri*, and *Carcharodon rondeletii* will prove to be the most abundant of the large sharks.

The number of species included in the present list is eighty-eight, five of which, a *Petroscirtes*, a *Lotella*, a *Pseudoscarus*, a *Balistes*, and a *Gobioides*, are irre recognizable owing to the bad condition in which they now are. Of the remaining eighty-three species fourteen are described as new, one of which belongs to a new genus of deep-sea fishes (*Sternoptychidæ*); these are as follows:—*Apogon chrysurus*, *Chatodon aphrodite*, *Haplodactylus etheridgii*, *Cirrhitichthys splendens*, *Pempheris unwini*, *Gobius æolosoma*, *Pomacentrus fasciolatus*, *Glyphidodon polyacanthus*, *Anampses elegans*, *A. variolatus*, *Solea ramsaii*, *Sternoptychides dentata*, *Monacanthus howensis*, and *Tetrodon callisternus*; while of the sixty-nine species then left, no less than twenty-one are here recorded for the first time from Australian waters. These are as follows:—*Anthias ciklops*, *Scorpena cooki*, *Plesiops nigricans*, *Salarias variolosus*, *S. marmoratus*, *S. quadricornis*, *Acanthoclinus littoreus*, *Cossyphus atrolumbus*, *Labroides paradiseus*, *Anampses twisti*, *Stethojulis axillaris*, *PlatyGLOSSUS pseudominiatus*, *P. trimaculatus*, *Julis lunaris*, *J. trilobata*, *Saurus varius*, *Exocetus dovi*, *Sprattelloides gracilis*, *Congromurena mellissi*, *Ostracion fornasini*, and *Tetrodon valentini*. Of the remaining forty-eight species, one of which, *Serranus ouatalibi*, has a very doubtful record, thirteen only have been recorded from New Zealand, of which number eleven are also known from the Australian coast; it therefore follows that so far as the fishes are concerned the fauna is strictly Australian, only two species, *Acanthoclinus littoreus* and *Ostracion fornasini*, having been recorded from New Zealand, and not from Australian seas, while the former was, previous

* See the paper "On the genus *Tetragonurus*," by Dr. Ramsay and the author, published in the Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, III (2), 1888, p. 9.