

requisite color. Judging from the equal distinctness of the vessels in some of Prof. Hyrtl's preparations in his possession, he was led to believe that it is on a similar principle that these beautiful injections are made, except that turpentine is probably used as a solvent instead of ether. He was, however, not able to speak positively on this subject, since the injecting material used by Prof. Hyrtl has never been disclosed. The advantage of using ether for injections, as first directed by Dr. Goddard, instead of turpentine, is that preparations in which ether has been used are always more uniformly and more minutely injected; and by dissolving solid substances in it, Dr. Da Costa believed that equal distinctness, with perhaps greater minuteness than is even afforded in the preparations of Prof. Hyrtl, may be obtained.

June 20th.

MAJOR LE CONTE in the Chair.

Dr. Le Conte presented two papers for publication in the Proceedings, viz: "Synopsis of the Dermestidæ of the United States," and "Synopsis of the Byrrhidæ of North America," both of which were referred to Dr. Leidy, Dr. Elwyn, and Dr. Ruschenberger.

Dr. Leidy presented a paper for publication in the Journal, entitled, "Descriptions of New Fossil species from the cretaceous formation of Sage Creek, Nebraska, by John Evans, M. D., and B. F. Shumard, M. D.;" which was referred to Mr. Conrad, Mr. Charles E. Smith, and Mr. Foulke.

Mr. Cassin presented a paper for publication in the Proceedings, entitled, "Descriptions of new Birds collected between Albuquerque, New Mexico, and San Francisco, California. By S. F. Baird." Referred to Mr. Cassin, Dr. Heermann, and Col. McCall.

June 27th.

Vice President LEA in the Chair.

The Committees to which were referred papers by Dr. Hallowell, read June 6th and 13th, 1854; by Dr. Gibbons, June 13th; by Dr. J. Le Conte, read June 20th; and by Prof. Baird, read June 20th, severally reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

Descriptions of new Reptiles from California.

BY EDWARD HALLOWELL, M. D.

CHELONIANS.

EMYS NIGRA, *nov.*

Sp. Char.—Shell oblong-ovate, slightly compressed at the sides and emarginate, but not distinctly serrated posteriorly; latero-posterior margins of carapax everted; nuchal plate narrow, truncate anteriorly, broader posteriorly; 24 marginal plates, the two posterior more or less quadrilateral, the two adjoining pentagonal; color blackish above, the upper part of head and neck presenting numerous very small yellow spots upon a black ground; anterior extremities with a tinge of yellow; under jaw and throat yellow, with dark colored markings; plastron yellow in the middle, with large blotches of black or dark brown at the sides, and anteriorly and posteriorly; under surface of tail and extremities blackish; tail of moderate length.

Dimensions.—Length of head 1 inch; breadth $\frac{1}{2}$; length of carapax $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, measured along curvature superiorly; breadth at middle $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; of tail $2\frac{1}{2}$.

Habitat.—Posa Creek, Lower California, where it occurs in great numbers.

Gen. obs.—This species resembles none of the North American Emydes with which I am acquainted. Its dark color puts one in mind of, but is not so jet a black as that of *Sternotherus niger* of Madagascar.

SAURIANS.

DIPSO-SAURUS, *Hallowell.*

Gen. char.—Head triangular, covered above and in front with tubercles; nostrils latero-superior, opening in a single scale; rostral plate vertical, triangular; jaws margined each with a series of smooth quadrilateral plates; tympanum visible, depressed; upper part of body covered with carinated scales, more or less rounded posteriorly, arranged in oblique rows; a row of scales much larger than the rest along the dorsal line, and much more strongly carinated, forming a slight dorsal crest; a gular fold; scales of abdomen quadrangular, smooth; femoral pores; tail covered with transverse rows of verticillate and carinated scales.

DIPSO-SAURUS DORSALIS.

Syn.—*Crotaphytus dorsalis*, Baird and Girard. *Proceed. Acad. Nat. Sc.* 1852, p. 126.

Coloration.—Body presenting numerous lines of red upon the sides, with blotches of the same color over the shoulders, the intervening spaces numerous white spots; upper surface and sides of tail marked with red spots arranged in transverse rows; upper surface of extremities with red; throat, abdomen, under surface of extremities and tail white. The coloration, as described by Profs. Baird and Girard, appears to be taken from younger specimens, one such before me corresponding with it precisely.

Dimensions.—Length of head 7 lines; breadth 7; length of head, neck and body to vent, 8 inches, (Fr.); of tail $7\frac{1}{2}$ inch.; anterior extremities $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.; posterior 3 inches to extremity of nail of longest toe.

Habitat.—Desert of the Colorado, to which it appears to be confined. The smaller specimen from near Fort Yuma, the large one found in the desert between Rum River and the Tejon Pass, (pronounced Tahon;) a country without water, not sandy, but arid, bearing artemisia, &c.

Gen. remarks.—This animal differs from *Crotaphytus* (Holbrook) in having the upper part of the body covered with quadrangular scales, instead of granulations, and the larger row of carinated dorsal scales giving rise to a slight crest, no trace of which exists in *Crotaphytus*, from *Leiolepis* in having tubercles, and not plates, upon the head and from *Homalo-saurus* in the form of the marginal plates of the upper jaw.

URO-SAURUS, *Hallowell.*

Gen. char.—Body very slender, which, as well as the head, is much depressed; scales upon the back much larger than those upon the sides, and strongly carinated; nostrils superior in a single scale; head covered with plates; aural apertures very distinct; a gular fold; extremities slender; toes 5—5; tail very long and tapering, verticillate; femoral pores, but no anal ones.

URO-SAURUS GRACIOSUS, *nob.*

Sp. char.—Head yellow, with a few brownish marks; seven longitudinal rows of scales upon the back very distinctly carinated. Color of body yellowish, mixed with brownish and black spots; extremities yellowish, with dark colored transverse bands; tail of same color above as body; under surface silvery white, with blackish spots; eleven femoral pores.

Dimensions.—Length of head $5\text{--}8\text{ths}$ inch; greatest breadth $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; length of head, neck and body to vent, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; of anterior extremities to extremity of