

(2.) *Scorpio afer*, the largest scorpion known, from India.

There was a small species in New Zealand, and he had received a specimen from Taranaki. In the specimen exhibited the pincers were very powerful; it breathed by two pairs of pulmonic sacs, and had sounding organs like a *Cicada*; viviparous; venomous; sting with two perforations and double glands. Poison acts on the red blood corpuscles, so that they become agglutinated in masses that were too large to pass through the capillaries. The antidote was ammonia. Not usually fatal to man except under unfavourable circumstances. Food, chiefly eggs of other insects. There were four families and thirty-one genera.

Major-General Schaw had lived in India some years, and had not known the big black scorpion to be dangerous to man.

(3.) *Parmophorus unguis*.

Lives in shallow water, but in rock enclosures on the outside coast. Allied to *Halotis* or pawa. The anatomy was interesting from the cirri round the mouth and sessile eyes on the outer base of short stout tentacles.

(4.) A fish's tooth, from Ponape (Caroline Islands), presented by Mr. Christian.

It was one of the upper pharyngeal plates of a species of *Pseudo-scarus*. The only species yet obtained from the Caroline Islands was only known from a drawing. These fish were commonly known as parrot-fish, or parrot-wrasses. Dr. Günther tells us in his "Study of Fishes" that the Mediterranean species were highly esteemed by the ancients, and Aristotle gives a long account of its feeding habits. The kind most esteemed by the Romans was interesting, being one of the first fish to be acclimatised. This was done by Elipentius, in the reign of Claudius, who brought the fish from the Troad and put them into the sea at Ostium. For five years all that were caught in nets were thrown back again, so that it soon became an abundant fish. Pliny thought it the best of fish (*nunc Scarus datur principatus*). Its flesh was esteemed delicate and easy of digestion, and was thus highly esteemed in the Greek Archipelago. It fed by scraping the animal growth off seaweed, for which its outer jaws were adapted. The material was then ground by the pharyngeal teeth, just as a cow chewed the cud. There was a myth that even the excrements of this fish were eaten by the gods. In New Zealand waters there were two species of closely allied fish with similar feeding habits, locally known as butter-fish (*Coriododax pullus* and *Odax vittatus*). They were most excellent food-fishes, being delicate and free from oily matter. He wished to know if Mr. Christian could give him the derivation of the native name of the fish "kamaik." The New Zealand butter-fish was called "marare."

A number of fishes, insects, &c., were exhibited, preserved in formol.

Mr. Mestayer said he had known a solution with only 2 per cent. of formol keeping good for six months. It was very useful for microscopic preparations, but it was very irritating to the eyes.