



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

that form of cartilage, as represented in this drawing, which I took from it. The cartilage corpuscles are well preserved and very distinct. By soaking it in water it does not become tough and flexible, as in recent cartilage, but swells up and forms a thick jelly, which, after a few hours, dissolves in the water, and colours it yellow. A change has taken place in it, corresponding to that which occurs in most organic tissues when constantly kept in the dry state. The atoms or molecules undergo a change of relation in regard to each other, or new chemical combinations take place without destroying the form of the dried object, but destroying the power of its resuming its original form. The change is an exceedingly slow one; in many instances, after centuries have elapsed, no perceptible change has taken place. An instance in point was lately presented to us by Dr. Morton, who put a dried ear of an Egyptian mummy of the time of the Pharaohs, into water, in the hope that it would resume its former proportions, but instead of so doing, for a few days it appeared to undergo no change, except colouring the water yellow, as in the case of the articular cartilage of the Megalonyx. It then suddenly underwent rapid decomposition, and in the course of a day entirely disappeared; the solution for two days exhaled a putrid odour, which then disappeared, leaving the fluid coloured yellow and without further change.

A report was presented from the committee appointed on the subject of exchanges with M. Vattermare, proposing to forward to him for works lately received two copies of Vols. 1 and 2 of the Proceedings; and also to place in his hands for further exchanges, additional copies of the same, which was accordingly ordered.

---

*Stated Meeting, November 16, 1847.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Cytherea, from California, presented by Dr. Joseph Wilson, U. S. N.

Boa constrictor, 12 feet long. Presented by Messrs. Raymond & Waring, through Dr. Watson.

Several living Opossums, for Dr. C. D. Meigs, Dr. Watson, and Dr. Wilson.

Heads of echinal spines from the Sivalik Hills. Presented by Dr. Morton.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Iconographie Ornithologique ; par O. Des Murs. Liv. 9. 4to. Presented by Mr. Edward Wilson.

Revue Zoologique. Nos. 7 and 8, 1847. Deposited by Dr. Wilson.

The National Magazine and Industrial Record. Edited by Redwood Fisher. 18 Nos. complete. New York, 1845--46. From the Author, through Mr. Thomas Fisher.

The following extract from a letter from Prof. Haldeman, dated 11th November, 1847, was read.

"Herpetologists now suppose that *Salamandra erythronota*, Green, and *S. cinerea*, Green, are opposite sexes of the same species. The two are frequently found under the same stone or log, but I have never seen one with intermediate characters. I recently found six individuals and submitted them to dissection. Four of *cinerea*, opened successively, proved to have gravid ovaries, and two of *erythronota* to be males; but to be certain, I submitted the seminal matter to microscopic examination, and found spermatozoa, although not fully developed. Subsequently I found two *erythronota* with gravid ovaries, so that not being sexual, and no intermediate forms having been observed, I am induced to believe that Green was right in proposing two species."

*Stated Meeting Nov. 23, 1847.*

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Fossil Saurian bones in a matrix of conglomerate, comprising several vertebræ, parts of paddle, &c., probably an undescribed extinct animal. Found near Hossack Creek,