

died long after arriving at maturity, but never showed any sign of changing from grey to black.

The following extracts from a letter from Mr. E. Stuart Baker may throw further light on the subject of colour-changes in hoolock gibbons :—

“ Susan, a female gibbon got by me as a mature animal, was sent to Colonel Vaughan, I.M.S. Colonel Vaughan kept her for some time and then passed her on to a Captain (now Colonel) Johnstone, and he again to others, and when I saw her many years later she was still jet black. A very large adult grey ♀ belonged to a Mr. Lewis Jones in North Cachar. It was caught as a grey *butcha* (young one) and remained the same colour, in this case a dark grey, all the time I knew it. I have kept many black hoolocks, in one case from a few days old until it was seven or eight years old, and never have I seen any change of colour take place.”

Mr. Stuart Baker, who has considerable experience of Assam hoolocks in their wild state, has often seen the same small community of hoolocks to contain white, brown, and black specimens, and these seemed to him always to remain the same.

The late Mr. Louis Schwendler, who will always be remembered in connexion with the establishment of the Calcutta Zoological Garden, related to me the following facts about a pet hoolock of his, a *female of a jet black colour*. She broke her arm by a fall from a tree and had to be kept in close confinement for over six weeks. During this period of enforced captivity she lost her black colour, and became almost grey. Change of hue, brought about by illness or injury, has been known to occur in other species of monkeys—particularly in *Semnopithecus pileatus*, and *Macacus arctoides*.

R. B. SANYAL, *Rai Bahadur*.

BATRACHIA.

EGGS OF *Tylototriton verrucosus*.—Mr. R. Hodgart, Zoological Collector in the Museum, while collecting Batrachia at Kurseong (5,000 feet) in the Darjiling district, recently (July, 1907) found several breeding females and eggs of this, the only Indian Urodele. Before describing the eggs I may notice a curious observation he made as regards the adult. He found that if it was grasped in the hand by the body it lashed about vigorously with its tail and drew blood from the hand. An examination of his specimens shows that the dorsal ridge is, at the base of the tail, exceedingly sharp and has a stiff and inflexible character. I have no doubt that this was the weapon used. Unfortunately the eggs, from one of which a larva is in the act of escaping, are not in a very good state of preservation, but the following particulars may be noted. They were found in small pools of rain water in an open wood and were attached together in pairs, each pair being separate from

the others and not fixed to any external object. The eggs appear to have measured about 10 mm. in diameter and are spherical; they have an outer covering of comparatively loose jelly, the inner covering that contains the larva being more tenacious and having a greater density. The escaping larva measures 9 mm. in length—of which 3 mm. is occupied by the tail—and 1.75 mm. in greatest depth; its body is rounded owing to the large amount of yolk held in the belly, but its tail is laterally compressed and has a lanceolate outline. The head is small and round, measuring 1.5 mm. in length; the eyes are large but not protuberant; they appear to be covered with skin, but the eyeball can be detected externally. There are four delicate external gills on either side, each set being arranged in a graduated series from above downwards. The mouth is open externally and is transverse and relatively large; behind it there is a conspicuous fold of the body-wall. The anus is still imperforate. The belly is white, but the tail and the back and sides of the body are grey, with large black pigment-cells forming almost a reticulated pattern.

N. ANNANDALE.

CRUSTACEA.

THE HOSTS OF *Tachæa spongillicola*, STEBBING.—This Isopod, recently described by the Rev. T. R. R. Stebbing (*Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool.*, xxx, p. 39, 1907) from Calcutta, was first found in small numbers in *Spongilla carteri*, but, owing to a misapprehension, the author of the species suggested in a footnote to his description that it might have come from a form of *S. lacustris*. This misapprehension was due to a letter of my own in which I intended to refer to a very different Isopod found in *Spongilla alba* at Port Canning. During the present summer, however, I have found numerous specimens of *Tachæa spongillicola* in *Ephydatia indica*, so that it is evidently not confined to one host. *Ephydatia indica* is a sponge often found on the bottom of tanks, growing most commonly on the roots of water-plants. Possibly this habit may explain the abundance of the Isopod in its canals; as the latter is rare in *Spongilla carteri*, which generally grows near the surface but has very much wider apertures and canals than any other species common in Calcutta.

N. ANNANDALE.

A SECOND SPECIES OF *Dichelaspis* FROM *Bathynomus giganteus*.—The Indian Museum is fortunate in possessing a fine series of specimens of the giant deep-sea Isopod *Bathynomus giganteus*, Milne-Edwards, and Barnacles of the genus *Dichelaspis* occur on the pleopods in every case. I recently described examples of these Barnacles from a specimen from the Arabian Sea as the types of a new species, *D. bathynomi* (*Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (7), xvii, p. 46), and others from specimens from the Andaman Sea and off the Madras coast agree with them. Those on another specimen, however, from off Ceylon, closely resemble *D. occlusa*, Lanchester,