

THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ALCOCK

Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Alcock, C.I.E., M.B., LL.D., F.R.S., came to India as a member of the Indian Medical Service in April 1886, having already had considerable experience of the country, and having also been Assistant Professor of Zoology in the University of Aberdeen under the late Professor H. A. Nicholson, F.R.S. After two years spent on the North-west Frontier as Medical Officer, he was appointed Surgeon Naturalist to the Indian Marine Survey. In 1891 he officiated for some months as Resident Physician and Professor of Pathology at the Calcutta Medical College, and in September 1892 was appointed Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Metropolitan and Eastern Bengal Circle. In May 1893 he became Superintendent of the Indian Museum and Professor of Zoology at the Medical College; from June 1895 to January 1896 he was on special duty with the Pamir Commission. He retired from the Indian Medical Service and the Superintendency of the Museum on December 29th, 1907. The Trustees of the Museum, at their meeting held on December 6th, passed the following resolution as regards his retirement, and directed that a notice of his connection with the Museum should be published as a mark of their esteem:—

“ As Lieutenant-Colonel Alcock’s approaching retirement from Government service has been gazetted since the last meeting of the Trustees, they take the earliest opportunity to express their sense of the value of his work in India to the Museum and to the science of Zoology. It is not within their province to comment upon his scientific researches, which have received the approbation of the scientific world in Europe and America, but they are well aware that it is to Colonel Alcock that the excellent arrangement of the bulk of the research collections in the Museum and of several of the public galleries is entirely due. His wide knowledge, untiring diligence, and scientific acumen are acknowledged by all who have been connected with the Museum. The Trustees are gratified to hear that Colonel Alcock does not intend to sever his connection with the Museum entirely, but proposes to continue in England his invaluable work upon the collection of Crustacea.”

Colonel Alcock’s connection with the Indian Museum may be said to have commenced when he became Surgeon Naturalist on the Indian Marine Survey Ship “ Investigator.” Year by year in the monsoon season when the ship was laid up in Bombay harbour, he came to work in Calcutta on the material dredged during the preceding winter, and thus established an association with the late

Mr. J Wood-Mason, his predecessor as Superintendent, that was fruitful in scientific work. On the death of Mr. Wood-Mason his services were put at the disposal of the Trustees, and he became Superintendent, without, however, leaving the Indian Medical Service.

In the Museum Colonel Alcock made it his aim to work out, so far as it was possible for one man to do, the fauna of the deeper parts of the Indian seas, to set in order the marine collection in the Museum, and to exhibit to the public a judicious selection of the animals identified or described by himself and others. The scientific side of this work, in its more general aspect, is known to all marine zoologists, being embodied in numerous papers and monographs and in his book "A Naturalist in Indian Seas," of which there is more to be said. It was mainly on account of his monographs on marine zoology that Colonel Alcock was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and received the honorary degree of LL.D. from his old University of Aberdeen. The work of arranging and exhibiting the collections of the Museum has naturally a more limited renown. There are few Museums, however, which can boast that their marine collections are in better order and better displayed than is the case in Calcutta. The gradual development which has made it possible to claim for the Indian Museum its place among the great reference collections of the world is almost entirely due to Colonel Alcock's work in this direction.

He did not, however, confine his attention, while connected with the Museum, to marine zoology, as his reports on the zoology of the Pamir Commission and on the reptiles of the Afghan Frontier Commission of 1895 and his biological notes in the publications of the Asiatic Society of Bengal attest, while the many dissections and other preparations he set up in the public galleries of reptiles and other terrestrial vertebrates prove his care for the interests of the students of the Calcutta Medical College, to whom he lectured in disheartening circumstances as regards the absence of all opportunity for practical classes and the humble place as yet given to zoology in the Indian medical curriculum. The bird and mammal galleries are still perhaps the least satisfactory parts of the Museum, but one man could not bring every section to equal perfection, and those who remember their previous state can alone appreciate what was done to improve them in Colonel Alcock's time.

The "Naturalist in Indian Seas" (1902) may be regarded as an epitome and a popularization (in the best sense of the word) of the greater part of Colonel Alcock's scientific work in India. It is a book that owes its value not only to its erudition and perspicuity but hardly less to its literary style, in which the strong infusion of Shakespeare and other Elizabethan authors is never pedantic, never frivolous, and never dull. The skill with which such apparently incongruous elements are fused even into the guide books he prepared for the Museum galleries can only be realized by one who has attempted, and failed, to complete a work of the kind he left unfinished.

No account of Colonel Alcock's zoological work in India would be complete without some reference to his connection with the Asiatic Society of Bengal, the scientific collections of which formed the nucleus of the Indian Museum. He became a member of this Society in February 1888, was elected Natural History Secretary in May 1894, General Secretary in April 1895, and Vice-President in February 1901; for several years his papers were by far the most important contributed to the zoological section of the Society's *Journal*.

Colonel Alcock has worked, so far as his service in India is concerned, for his successors rather than himself; but it is fortunately impossible to think that his own work for India is finished. We may confidently hope that it will continue for many years in his retirement to bear the fruit of his unsurpassed accuracy of observation, his many-sided enthusiasm, and his literary talent. As his immediate successor I may be permitted to express my gratitude not only for the zoological knowledge acquired from him and for his unflinching kindness in the Museum and in private life, but also for that sound versatility which prevented the Museum, understaffed as it is now acknowledged to have been, from becoming a lumber-room with one corner set in order by a specialist. The admirable organization of his office, which enabled his successor to take up the threads of routine mechanically, is another matter for which it is impossible to be too grateful: although changes will necessarily take place as the Museum grows and develops, the groundwork will always be that constructed by Colonel Alcock, too often without recognition and in spite of obstacles of which nothing was known beyond the Museum walls.

N. ANNANDALE,

CALCUTTA :
January 22nd, 1908.

*Superintendent, Indian Museum,
Natural History Section.*



LIST OF PAPERS, ETC, ON INDIAN
ZOOLOGY PUBLISHED BY
A. W. ALCOCK, 1890—1907

I. GENERAL MEMOIRS.

(i) *On Marine Zoology.*

1. Note on the Results of Deep-sea Dredging in 1889-1890.
(Jointly with J Wood-Mason.)
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), vii, 1891, pp. 1-19 and 186-272.]
2. On the Deep-sea Dredging of the season 1890-91.
(Jointly with J Wood-Mason.)
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), viii, 1891, pp. 427-452, pl. xvii.]
3. An Account of the Deep-sea Collection made by the "Investigator" during the season of 1892-93.
[J A. S. B., lxii, pt. ii, No. 4, 1893, pp. 169-184, pls. viii-ix.]
4. A Summary of the Deep-sea Zoological Work of the R.I.M.S. "Investigator" from 1884-1897.
[Scientific Memoirs by Medical Officers of the Army of India, pt. xi, 1899, pp. 1-49.]
5. Zoological Gleanings from the R.I.M.S. "Investigator."
[Scientific Memoirs by Medical Officers of the Army of India, pt. xii, 1901, pp. 1-42.]
6. A Naturalist in Indian Seas, or four years with the R.I.M.S. "Investigator," London, 1902, pp. i-xxiv and 1-318; 98 figs. and a map.

(ii) *On Bionomic Subjects.*

7. Observations on the Gestation of some Sharks and Rays.
[J A. S. B., lix, pt. ii, No. 1, 1890, pp. 51-56, pl. i.]
8. On the uterine villiform Papillæ of *Pteroplatea micrura*, and their Relation to the Embryo.
(Jointly with J Wood-Mason.)
[Proc. Roy. Soc., xlix, 1891, pp. 359-367, pls. 7 and 8.]
9. Further Observations on the Gestation of Indian Rays.
(Jointly with J Wood-Mason.)
[Proc. Roy. Soc., 1, 1891, pp. 202-209.]

10. On a Viviparous Bathybial Fish from the Bay of Bengal.
[Proc. Zool. Soc., 1891, pp. 226-227.]
11. On Utero-gestation in *Trygon bleekeri*.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), ix, 1892, pp. 417-427, pl. xix.]
12. Some Observations on the Embryonic History of *Pteroplatea micrura*.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), x, 1892, pp. 1-8, pl. iv.]
13. A Case of Commensalism between a Gymnoblasic Anthomedusoid (*Stylactis minoi*) and a Scorpænoid Fish (*Minous inermis*).
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), x, 1892, pp. 207-214.]
14. On a New Species of Viviparous Fish of the family *Ophidiidæ*.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), xvi, 1895, pp. 144-146.]
15. An Instance of the Natural Repellent Effect of "Warning Colours."
[J. A. S. B., lxx, pt. ii, No. 3, 1896, pp. 539-540.]
16. On the Toxic Properties of the saliva of certain "non-poisonous" Colubrines.
(Jointly with L. Rogers.)
[Proc. Roy. Soc., lxx, 1902, pp. 446-454.]
17. On the occurrence of *Anopheles (Myzomyia) listoni*, a malaria-carrying mosquito, in Calcutta.
(Jointly with J. R. Adie.)
[Proc. Roy. Soc., lxxvi, 1905, pp. 319-321.]

II. SYSTEMATIC PAPERS.

(i) *Anthozoa*.

18. On some Newly-recorded Corals from the Indian Seas.
[J. A. S. B., lxii, pt. ii, No. 2, 1893, pp. 138-149, pl. v.]
19. On some *Actiniaria* from the Indian Seas.
[J. A. S. B., lxii, pt. ii, No. 3, 1893, pp. 151-153.]
20. Note on *Calypterinus allmani*.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), xii, 1893, pp. 29-30.]
21. On some New and Rare Corals from the Deep Waters of India.
[J. A. S. B., lxiii, pt. ii, No. 3, 1894, pp. 186-188.]
22. An Account of the Deep-sea *Madreporaria* collected by the R.I.M.S. "Investigator," 29 pp., 3 pls.
23. Report on the Deep-Sea *Madreporaria* of the "Siboga-Expedition."
[Siboga-Expeditie, 1899-1900. Resultats des Explorations Zoologiques, Botaniques, Oceanographiques et Geologiques. Publiés par Max Weber. 4to. Pt. xvi a, 1902, *Madreporaria*.]

24. Diagnoses and Descriptions of New Species of Corals from the "Siboga-Expedition."

[Tijdschr. d. Ned. Dierkund, Vereen. (2), vii, 3, 1902, pp. 89-115; 116-123.]

(ii) *Echinoderma.*

25. An Account of the Collection of Deep-sea *Asteroidea*.

[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), xi, 1893, pp. 73-121, pls. iv-vi.]

(iii) *Brachiopoda.*

26. A New Brachiopod.

[J. A. S. B., lxiii, pt. ii, No. 2, 1894, pp. 139-140, pl. viii.]

(iv) *Crustacea.*

27. On the Deep-sea Crustacea collected by the "Investigator" in 1890-91.

[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), xiii, 1894, pp. 225-245, 321-334, 400-411.]

28. An Account of a Recent Collection of Deep-sea Crustacea from the Bay of Bengal and Laccadive Sea.

(Jointly with A. R. S. Anderson.)

[J. A. S. B., lxiii, pt. ii, No. 3, 1894, pp. 141-185, pl. ix.]

29. List of the Shore and Shallow-water *Brachyura* collected by the "Investigator" in 1893-94.

(Jointly with A. R. S. Anderson.)

[J. A. S. B., lxiii, pt. ii, No. 4, 1894, pp. 197-209.]

30. Materials for a Carcinological Fauna of India. No. 1. The *Brachyura Oxyrhyncha*.

[J. A. S. B., lxiv, pt. ii, No. 2, 1895, pp. 157-291, pls. iii-v.]

31. Materials for a Carcinological Fauna of India. No. 2. The *Brachyura Oxystoma*.

[J. A. S. B., lxv, pt. ii, No. 2, 1896, pp. 134-296, pls. vi-viii.]

32. Description of a New Species of *Branchipus* from Calcutta.

[J. A. S. B., lxv, pt. ii, No. 3, 1896, pp. 538-539, pl. x.]

33. Materials for a Carcinological Fauna of India. No. 3. The *Brachyura Cyclometopa*. Pt. i. The Family *Xanthidæ*.

[J. A. S. B., lxvii, pt. ii, No. 1, 1898, pp. 67-233.]

34. Materials for a Carcinological Fauna of India. No. 4. The *Brachyura Cyclometopa*. Pt. ii. The Families *Portunidæ*, *Cancridæ* and *Corystidæ*.

[J. A. S. B., lxviii, pt. ii, No. 1, 1899, pp. 1-104.]

35. An Account of the Deep-sea *Brachyura* collected by the R.I.M.S. "Investigator," pp. 1-85, 4 pls.

36. Materials for a Carcinological Fauna of India. No. 5. The *Brachyura Primigenia* or Dromiacea.

[J. A. S. B., lxxviii, pt. ii, No. 3, 1899, pp. 123-169.]

37. An Account of the Deep-sea Crustacea dredged by the "Investigator" in 1897-98.

(Jointly with A. R. S. Anderson.)

[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (7), iii, 1899, pp. 1-27, 278-292.]

38. Materials for a Carcinological Fauna of India. No. 6. The *Brachyura Catometopa*.

[J. A. S. B., lxxix, pt. ii, No. 3, 1900, pp. 279-456.]

39. A Descriptive Catalogue of the Deep-Sea *Crustacea*, *Macrura* and *Anomala* in the Indian Museum, 1901, pp. 1-286, pls. i-iii.

40. Catalogue of Decapod Crustacea in the Indian Museum. Pt. i. *Brachyura*. Fascicle i. Introduction and Dromides or Dromiacea (*Brachyura primigenia*), 1901, pp. i-ix and 1-80, pl. A, i-vii.

41. Catalogue of the Indian Decapod Crustacea in the Indian Museum. Pt. ii. *Anomura*. Fascicle i. Pagurides, 1905, pp. i-xi and 1-197, pls. i-xvi.

42. Catalogue of the Indian Decapod Crustacea in the Indian Museum. Pt. iii. *Macrura*. Fascicle i. The Prawns of the *Peneus* group, 1906, pp. i-ii and 1-55, pls. i-vii.

43. Marine Crustaceans, *Paguridæ*.

[Fauna and Geography of the Maldivé and Laccadive Archipelagoes. Stanley Gardener II, pt. iv, pp. 827-835, pl. lxxviii.]

44. On a new species of the Dorippoid genus *Cymonomus* from the Andaman Sea, considered with reference to the geographical distribution of the *Dorippidæ*.

[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (7), xv, 1905, pp. 565-576, pl. xviii.]

45. A Revision of the genus *Peneus*.

[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (7), xvi, 1905, pp. 508-532.]

(v) *Fishes*.

46. List of the *Pleuronectidæ* obtained in the Bay of Bengal in 1888 and 1889, with Descriptions of New and Rare Species.

[J. A. S. B., lviii, pt. ii, No. 3, 1889, pp. 279-295, pls. xvi-xviii.]

47. Descriptions of some New and Rare Species of Fishes from the Bay of Bengal, obtained during the season of 1888-89.

[J. A. S. B., lviii, pt. ii, No. 3, 1889, pp. 296-305, pl. xxii.]

48. On the Bathybial Fishes of the Bay of Bengal and neighbouring waters, obtained during the seasons 1885-89.

[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), iv, 1889, pp. 376-399 and 450-461.]

49. On the Bathybial Fishes collected in the Bay of Bengal during the season 1889-90.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), vi, 1890, pp. 197-222, pls. viii-ix.]
50. On the Bathybial Fishes of the Arabian Sea, obtained during the season 1889-90.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), vi, 1890, pp. 295-311.]
51. On some Undescribed Shore-Fishes from the Bay of Bengal.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), vi, 1890, pp. 425-443.]
52. On the Deep-sea Fishes collected by the "Investigator" in 1890-91.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), viii, 1891, pp. 16-34, 119-138, pls. vii-viii.]
53. On the Bathybial Fishes collected by the "Investigator" in 1891-92.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), x, 1892, pp. 345-365, pl. xviii.]
54. An Account of a Recent Collection of Bathybial Fishes from the Bay of Bengal and from the Laccadive Sea.
[J. A. S. B., lxiii, pt. ii, No. 2, 1894, pp. 115-137, pls. vi-vii.]
55. A Supplementary List of Marine Fishes of India, with Descriptions of two new Genera and eight new Species.
[J. A. S. B., lxv, pt. ii, No. 3, 1896, pp. 301-338.]
56. A note on the Deep-sea Fishes, with Descriptions of some new Genera and Species, including another probably Viviparous Ophidioid.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (7), ii, 1898, pp. 136-156.]
57. An Account of the Deep-sea Fishes collected by the R.I.M.S. "Investigator"; being a descriptive Catalogue of the Deep-sea Fishes contained in the collection of the Indian Museum.

(vi) Reptilia and Amphibia.

58. On a New Species of Flying Lizard from Assam.
[J. A. S. B., lxiv, pt. ii, No. 1, 1895, pp. 14-15, pl. iii.]
59. An Account of the Reptilia collected by Dr. F. P. Maynard, Capt. A. H. McMahan, C.I.E., and the Members of the Afghan-Baluch Boundary Commission of 1896.
(Jointly with F. Finn.)
[J. A. S. B., lxv, pt. ii, No. 4, 1896, pp. 550-566, pls. xi-xv.]
60. Description of, and Reflections upon, a new species of Apodous Amphibian from India.
[Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (7), xiv, 1904, pp. 267-272, pl. vii.]

III. OTHER (OFFICIAL) PUBLICATIONS.

1. Illustrations of the Zoology of the R.I.M.S. "Investigator," 1892—1907.

(Jointly with J Wood-Mason, A. R. S. Anderson, A. F. McArdle, A. C. MacGilchrist and N. Annandale.)

Fishes	pls. i-xxxviii.
Crustacea—	
Malacostraca	,, i-lxxix.
Entomostraca	,, i-ii.
Echinoderma	,, i-v.
Mollusca	,, i-xviii.

2. Report on the Natural History Results of the Pamir Boundary Commission of 1895.

Pages 1-18 ; 32-45 ; 4 pls.

3. A Guide to the Zoological Collections exhibited in the Invertebrate Gallery of the Indian Museum.

Pages 1-155, with 1 plan.

4. A Guide to the Zoological Collections exhibited in the Reptile and Amphibia Gallery of the Indian Museum.

Pages 1-47, with 1 plan.

5. A Guide to the Zoological Collections exhibited in the Fish Gallery of the Indian Museum.

