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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

OF THE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

January 12, 1864.

Dr. J. E. Gray in the Chair.

Mr. Buckland exhibited and made remarks on some specimens of Oysters from Prince Edward's Island, alluding especially to the probable advantages of introducing the American species Ostrea virginica into this country.

Mr. Leadbeater exhibited a young specimen of Owen's Apteryx (Apteryx owenii) from New Zealand.

Mr. Henry J. B. Hancock gave notice of his intention to try some experiments on the supposed electricity of Octopus in the Society's Gardens.

The following papers were read :-

1. A LIST OF BIRDS COLLECTED IN DAMARA LAND BY MR. C. J. ANDERSSON. By J. H. GURNEY, M.P., F.Z.S.

In drawing up this list of birds, which I have received from my friend Mr. Andersson, and which bears full testimony to his well-known scientific assiduity as an ornithological collector, I have omitted those species which have already been enumerated, by Messrs. Strickland and Sclater in the 'Contributions to Ornithology' for 1852, as having been collected by Mr. Andersson in his first journey to Damara Land, and confine myself to the enumeration of species not mentioned in the above-named list, but which have been all collected by Mr. Andersson in that country.

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yellowish-white here and there, with a few dark blotches; head and neck jet-black above and below. Total length 7' 10".

Hab. Port Denison.

3. Description of a New Species of Mormyrus. By Dr. A. Günther.

(Plate II.)

Only a short time ago I described* a peculiar species of Mormyrus, M. petersii, distinguished by a very long mandibulary flap. I have the pleasure to lay to-day before the Society another species with the same structure of the fins, and with a similar prolongation of the lower jaw. It comes, like M. petersii, from West Africa. The peculiar form of the snout has suggested the specific name of

MORMYRUS TAMANDUA. (Pl. II. fig. 1.)

D. 28. A. 31. V. 6. L. lat. 80. Body compressed, rather elongate—its greatest height, between the origin of the dorsal and anal fins, being two-ninths of the total length (without caudal); the length of the head is one-fourth of the same. The snout is much prolonged, tubiform, slightly tapering, and curved downwards, the distance between the eye and the end of the mandibulary flap being twice that between the eye and the gill-opening. The mouth is very small, at the extremity of the snout, with the jaws equal, and armed with two pairs of feeble conical teeth above and below. The mandibulary flap is as long as the eye. The eye is covered with the skin, but appears through from below it. The pectoral is nearly twice as long as the ventral, and extends beyond its base. The dorsal and anal fins are opposite each other, and placed on the caudal portion of the body, the origin of the former being in the middle between the occiput and the root of the caudal. The scales on the trunk are rather small and irregularly arranged, but become gradually larger and more regular posteriorly. Coloration uniform.

The single specimen obtained is 10 inches long.

We add, for comparison, the diagnosis of the other species mentioned above: -

MORMYRUS PETERSII. (Pl. II. fig. 2.)

D. 27. A. 34. L. lat. 66. The mandible is prolonged into a long, conical fleshy appendage, which is nearly half as long as the head. Dark brown, with two lighter cross bands.

Hab. Old Calabar.

^{*} Wiegm. Arch. 1862, p. 64.

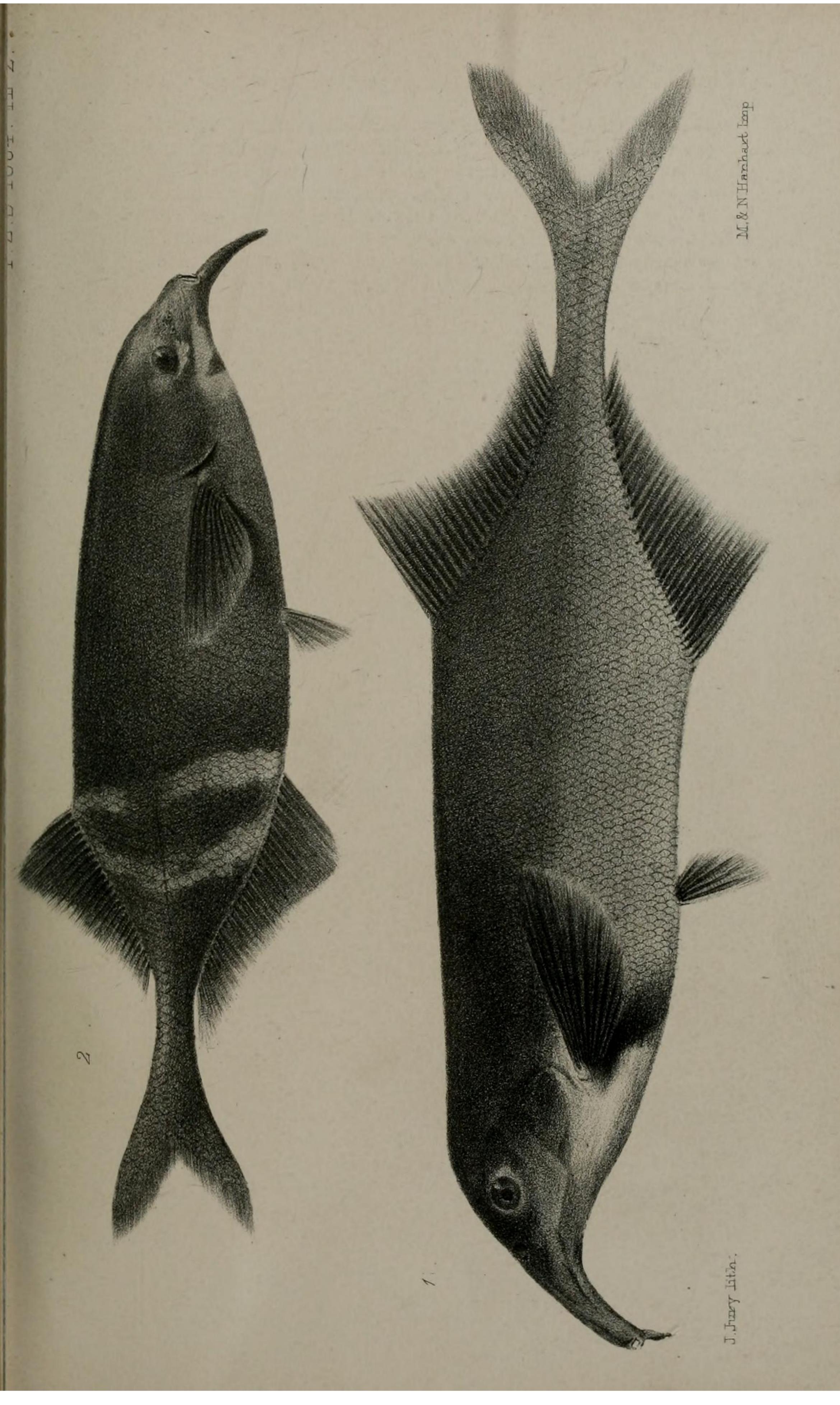


FIG 1. MORMYRUS TAMANDUA FIG 2

PIG 2 MORMYRUS PETERSII.