A REVIEW OF THE ELEOTRIDS of NEW SOUTH WALES.


(Plates xxxiv.-xxxvi.)

In 1897 Mr. J. D. Ogilby published a paper "On some Australian Eleotridae" and in the succeeding year made a further contribution to the same subject. In the following pages these will be referred to as Nos. I. and II. respectively.

As the outcome of the first paper the author admits as members of the fauna of New South Wales, seven good and two doubtful species. In the second paper three other species are added so that the list stands as below:

- Carassius compressus, Krefft.
- Carassius longi, Ogilby.
- Carassius gallii, Ogilby.
- Krefftius australis, Krefft.
- Krefftius adepsurus, Castelnau.
- Malpia ovata, Krefft.
- Ophiothele grandidiceps, Krefft.
- Ophiothele angustifrons, Ogilby.
- Gymnobutis gymnocaephalus, Steindachner.
- ? striatus, Steindachner.
- ? Mojarnda mojarnda, Richardson.

The author writes (I., p. 750): "It is one of the most remarkable problems connected with Australian fish literature how the continental naturalists, receiving small collections from such well worked localities as Port Jackson and Hobson's Bay, invariably succeed in obtaining fishes, which we, despite our local knowledge, and despite that having once been recorded they are more carefully sought for, are unable to find."

It seems to me that as a first step instead of searching for forms new to us, which may be identified with species described by continental naturalists, we should rather seek to recognise in their description, some form with which we may be familiar under an earlier name.

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2 Ogilby—Loc. cit., xxii, 1898, pp. 783-793.