Teeth, horizontal length of I^2 ... 1-3
" height of Canine ... 2-3
" length of P^1 ... 3-2
" length of M^1-3 ... 11-4
" diastema of I^2 and C. ... 3-7
" " C. and P^1 ... 2-8
" " P^1 and P^2 ... 1-0
" length of lower I^1 ... 9-8

It is interesting to notice that the structure of the tail corresponds with the habits of the animals; thus, in *P. herbertensis*, which ascends the highest trees, the lower surface is naked for a greater portion of its length and is roughened so as to afford a secure grip of the topmost wind-swayed branches. In its more lowly habit, *P. colletti* avoids such positions, and has therefore less need of special adaptation.

It may be mentioned that *P. mongon*, De Vis,* of which we hold co-types from the describer, exhibits none of the characters here sought to be emphasised, and except in the markings does not differ from typical examples of *P. herbertensis*, as previously determined.

---

**THE NEST OR DREY OF THE RING-TAILED OPOSSUM, (PSEUDOCHIRUS PEREGRINUS, BODD).**

BY EDGAR R. WAITE, F.L.S., Zoologist.

(Plate xix.)

One of the most peculiar and interesting habits of the Ring-tailed Opossum (*Pseudochirus peregrinus*, Bodd), is that of making a nest or drey. Although well-known, but little appears to have been written on the subject beyond the notice that it is not unlike that of the European Squirrel.

I as often found the drey of this latter animal in a hole in a tree as among the branches, a situation never utilised by the Opossum. The nest of the Marsupial may be constructed either in a fork or upon a platform of interlaced twigs. A thick bush is more favoured than a tree, but almost any growth, if sufficiently dense, may be made use of: the Lilly Pilly (*Eugenia*), offers a congenial retreat, as does also the Tea Tree (*Melaleuca*), its long strips of loose bark being frequently woven into the nest. The native "Oaks" (*Casuarina*), and the Wattles (*Acacia*), are further favourites. Preference is shown for the neighbourhood of water.

* De Vis—Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales (2) i, 1887, p. 1130.