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Entomological collections in the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

Ice Age vertebrates: a guide and bibliography to the conservation and storage of subfossil bone and teeth, and the identification and ecology of Pleistocene and Recent vertebrates.

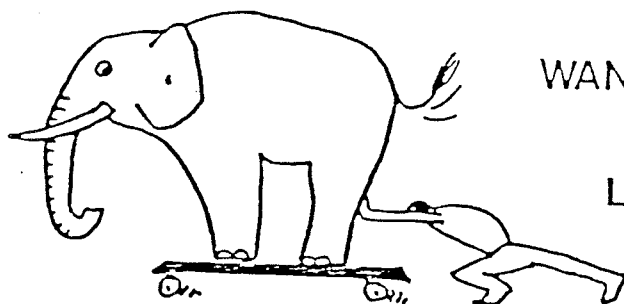
Publications on south western geology and natural history in 1984.

A new specimen of the fossil fish Eomesodon.

Herbarium of Thomas Bruges Flower found at Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery.

EDITOR:

M. A. Taylor, Area Museum Council for the South West, c/o City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Queen's Road, Bristol, BS8 1RL



WANTS, EXCHANGES,

LOST & FOUND

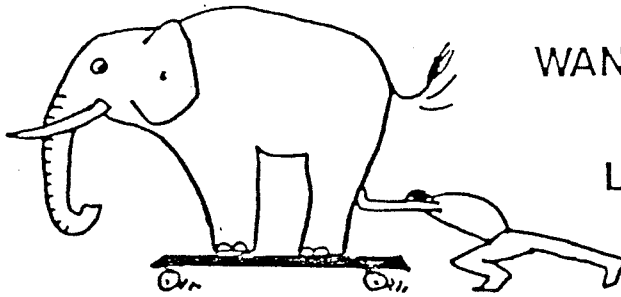
I have had an enquiry from a Philip Hall from Maine U.S.A. who is attempting to locate sources of primary data regarding the career of ROBERT SWINHOE(1836-77), British Consul in China, who did much to contribute to the scientific knowledge of the fauna of China between 1854 and 1874 and sporadically until his death. Any information relating to correspondence, his manuscripts and journals and the whereabouts of his collections and the 3500 or so stuffed specimens he brought to England should be sent to

Philip B. Hall
P.O.Box 61
Surrey
Maine
USA 04684.

Rosina Down
Curator
Museum of Zoology & Comparative Anatomy.
University College, London.

TUSKS MAMMOTH (MAMMUTHUS PRIMIGENIUS) right and left.
Proof of authenticity available. Only genuine buyers entertained.

Anyone interested should contact the editor, who will pass names on to the vendor.



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FLEAS

In 1974 the Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood Experimental Station published my Provisional Atlas of the Insects of the British Isles, pt 4, Siphonaptera. Fairly recently thoughts have been expressed about the possibility of an up-dated edition but I feel that insufficient new records and confirmations of old records, have come in to make the effort worth-while. However the idea is tempting and I am, therefore, appealing for more information concerning flea distribution within the British Isles. The best information would come with the sight of unrecorded specimens, particularly recent collections.

Mapping the British Isles on the basis of the 10 km. squares of the national grid and the Irish Grid involves approximately 3500 squares. The following figures illustrate the paucity of flea records : in my 1974 paper the best (!) recorded bird flea, Ceratophyllus gallinae (Schrank) was known from 416 squares, the best recorded mammal fleas, Spilopsyllus cuniculi (Dale) from 559 squares and the aggregate Ctenophthalmus nobilis (Rothschild) s. lat. from 614 squares. The last ten years have produced a less than 10% improvement!

Fleas can be obtained from the bodies and the nests of their hosts, they should be preserved in 70% alcohol and full data, i.e. host identity and sex, locality, date, collector's name, grid reference should be provided whenever possible. Of course due regard to the law concerning some species of hosts must be observed.

I would be happy to identify specimens of any British fleas - even those from such mundane hosts as dog or cat or humans - and will return specimens if so desired (I must admit that return postage would be appreciated).

R.S.George, C.I.Biol., M.I.Biol., F.L.S., F.R.E.S.
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FAIRY FLIES.

This is the rather romantic name given to a Family of small Chalcid wasps known scientifically as Mymaridae. About 70-80 British species are known and the World List has about 1300 names on it. Almost certainly thousands of species are yet to be found and described.

In my retirement I have taken up an interest in this group and I would appreciate it if Curators would be so good as to inform me, at least in broad terms, i.e. areas of the world involved, approx. numbers, degree of identification, slides and/or card mounted, of the holdings in their Museums (B.M.(N.H.) excepted of course - I spend a moderate amount of time on the collections there). At the moment I cannot offer identifications - maybe, hopefully one day.

R.S.George...address as on the 'Flea' note.