

TRAP-DOOR SPIDERS OF THE "CHEVERT" EXPEDITION.

BY

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(Figs. 1-8.)

In 1875 the late Sir William John (then Mr.) Macleay fitted out and conducted a scientific expedition for "a few months' cruise among the Islands of New Guinea and Torres Straits," for which purpose he chartered the barque "Chevert." As a result of this expedition, which occupied about six months, a large amount of material was collected, and a number of papers dealing with it were published in the two first volumes of "The Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales." Of the material thus collected, the Araneidæ were entrusted to the late Mr. H. H. Burton Bradley, and the greater part of it was worked out by him, the results being recorded in three short papers¹. The total number of species enumerated was forty-three, of which fourteen were described as new. Since the demise of the author referred to, Mrs. Bradley, his widow, has presented to the Trustees of the Museum a collection of Australian and Papuan Araneidæ. The last-named series is especially interesting, since it proves to be of the Family Avicularidæ, and is labelled: "Papua; Chevert Expedition." No Terretelariæ were included by Mr. Bradley in his papers, owing, doubtless, to the poverty of literature upon the subject at that time, and to which, small though it was, access was naturally difficult if not impossible.

The majority of the species worked by Mr. Bradley were of the Family Argioidæ; in addition to these there were a few Theridiidæ, one of the Pholcidæ, one of the Zodaridæ, and a couple of the Clubionidæ.

The Terretelarians, of which the present paper deals, includes some interesting forms. The genera represented are *Missulena*, Walck., one species; *Arbanitis*, L. Koch, two species; *Ischnocolus*, Auss., one species; *Idiactis*, L. Koch, one species; *Hadronyche*, L. Koch, one species; and *Anepsiada*, Rainb. and Pull., one species. Also, included in this collection there are a couple of mature specimens, and three half-grown examples of *Hexathele*, Auss. If there be no mistake about the locality label, then the occurrence of this genus in Papua is particularly interesting, since only two species of the genus have been recorded up to the present, and both of these are from New Zealand². For further comments in respect of the genus under discussion see conclusion of this paper.

The student will note that in the descriptions given below, the falces are not included in measurements.

¹ Bradley—The Araneides of the "Chevert" Expedition, Part 1 (*Proc. Linn. Soc., N.S.W.*, i., 1877, p. 137); On Some New Forms of Arachnidæ (*op. cit.*, p. 220, pl. ii.); and The Araneides of the "Chevert" Expedition, Part 2 (*op. cit.*, ii., 1878, p. 115).

² Hogg—*Proc. Zool. Soc., Lond.*, 1901, p. 276.