

shape of *Bathyergus* and *Georychus*, there are only five or six genera in all. Why should not *Talpa* be looked upon as the plagiarist? There is still another very different animal, with mole-like habits, the little armadillo (*Chlamyphorus*) of the Argentine Republic. It seems remarkable that no Marsupial in Australia has become modified to suit mole-like habits. All other Mammalian habits almost have been adopted by Marsupials. *Bathyergus* has, like our *Talpa*, a bare snout, and strong digging hands and feet. It burrows of course in search of roots and vegetable food only, not for worms like *Talpa*.

The people about Simons Town have an idea that the animals work the earth at certain stated hours, and have regular periods of rest; but I was always able, by going over a good deal of ground, to find one working at any time of the day. The heaps thrown up are huge, a foot high, five or six times as big as those of our little mole. A fresh heap is betrayed at once by its darker colour, *i.e.*, its dampness; in a few hours the dry heat of the Cape reduces it to a glistening white.

One has not long to watch, standing a few yards off, before the fresh heap is seen to heave up, three or four times in succession, as the mole forces freshly scooped-out earth up into it from below. I tried at first shooting into the heap as it was thus heaving, in the hopes of getting the mole, but never with any success. In order to shoot the worker, the earth should be quickly thrown back from the fresh heap, and the hole laid open to the air.

One then has only to retire about ten paces and wait patiently. The mole does not like the fresh air, and in the course of five minutes or so comes back to fill up the hole, but usually puts its head out for a moment first, to find out what's up, though it certainly cannot see far with its minute eyes, which are not bigger than the heads of carpet pins, the whole eyeball when extracted being not bigger than a tenth of an inch in diameter.

Of course, a charge of shot at the moment the animal shows its head is effective. But the easiest method of getting specimens is to scrap away the earth from the fresh mound and to insert in the hole a common rabbit gin, well secured with peg and string. I trapped a good many *Bathyergi* in this way, and one *Georychus*. *Bathyergus* is very fierce when dragged out of its hole, fast by one leg in a gin. The animal bites the air savagely with its enormous teeth, which project an inch and a half from the lower jaw, and makes an angry half-snarling, half-grunting noise.

I took several of the moles on board the ship alive in a sack. I let the sack swing by accident against one of my legs, and