

specimen under an old cart-wheel at Wynberg. Immediately that I opened this one I saw its tracheæ and the fully-formed young within it. Had my colleague lighted on the specimen he would no doubt have made the discovery instead.

Peripatus capensis is nocturnal in its habits. Its gait is exactly like that of a caterpillar, the feet moving in pairs, and the body being entirely supported upon them. The animals can move with considerable rapidity. They have a remarkable power of extension of the body, and when walking stretch to nearly twice the length they have when at rest.*

Had I not been engaged for so long a time in working at *Peripatus*, I should have certainly paid a visit to the Knysna Forest, accessible by steamer from Cape Town, which contains wild elephants preserved by Government, and numerous antelopes and other large animals. My principal object in going, however, would have been to see the curious bird, the Turacou (*Turacus albocristatus*), one of the Plantain-eaters. This bird has bright red feathers in its wings, the red colouring matter of which is soluble in water, so that the birds are apt to wash their red feathers white when in confinement.

The colouring matter, "Turacin," as was discovered by Prof. A. H. Church,† is distinguished by yielding a remarkable absorption spectrum, and contains a considerable quantity of copper. The bird is very common in the Knysna, and I was told by sportsmen who had shot it, that in rainy weather it will hardly fly, but crouches down under the bushes, and may sometimes be knocked down with a stick.

A most extraordinary statement concerning these birds, to the effect that the red colour, when washed out of the feathers, becomes restored, is made by M. Jules Verreaux.‡ It is impossible to understand how this can happen, since there are no apparent means by which the colouring matter can be conducted from the body of the bird to the web of the feather. Such a result seems only possible in Horn-bills, some of which, as is well known, paint their feathers yellow by rubbing in a yellow secretion discharged from glands under the wing.

M. Verreaux states that in rainy weather, just as I was informed, the Turacous get their feathers wet through, and are, in consequence, unable to fly, but crouch on the ground, instead of resting on the tree-tops as usual. He caught several with the hand, the colour came out on his hands from the wet

* For a detailed account of the anatomy, and development of *Peripatus Capensis*, see H. N. Moseley, "On the Anatomy and Development of *Peripatus Capensis*." *Phil. Trans. R. Soc.*, 1874, p. 757.

† "Researches on Turacin," *Phil. Trans.*, 1870, p. 627.

‡ M. Jules Verreaux, "Proc. Zool. Soc.," 1871, p. 40.