

that it formed a genus distinct from *Megaptera*, and named the animal *Pæscopia lalandii*. Its generic difference is not, however, accepted by zoologists generally, and MM. Van Beneden and Gervais associate it with the genus *Megaptera* as species *lalandii*;¹ at the same time they point out that the differences between its skeleton and that of *Megaptera longimana* are not of a strongly-marked character.

In 1864 Dr J. E. Gray received from New Zealand some ear-bones, which though very like those of *Megaptera longimana*, yet had the tympanics shorter and more swollen. He accordingly proposed to distinguish the animal from which they had been obtained as a new species by the name of *Megaptera novæ-zealandiæ*.²

MM. Van Beneden and Gervais hesitate to accept the New Zealand *Megaptera* as a distinct species from that of the Cape, and Dr Hector, who at first adopted Dr Gray's nomenclature, has in his latest memoir On the New Zealand Cetacea³ regarded it as *Megaptera lalandii*. He states that the humpback is the most common whale around the coasts of New Zealand.

The cervical vertebræ in this specimen do not, however, entirely correspond with the vertebræ of *Megaptera lalandi* described by MM. Van Beneden and Gervais. In their specimen it is stated that all the cervical vertebræ were free, but that Cuvier had described the second and third as united by the upper part of the body, and that in the British Museum was a specimen in which the second was united to the third on one side only. In fig. 2, Pl. IX., the junction of the second and third with each other is represented by them, and in the same figure it can be seen that not only are the superior and inferior transverse processes of the cervical vertebræ behind the second not united together externally, but that those of the axis also are free at their outer ends. From this circumstance, as well as from the union of only two vertebræ with each other in the specimens above referred to, there can, I think, be little doubt that the specimen now described was of more mature age than those previously recorded.

In October 1870 a cargo of whales' bones was imported into Leith from the Cape of Good Hope. Messrs J. & J. Cunningham, the importers, kindly allowed me to examine them, and select some specimens for the Anatomical Museum of the University. The collection contained numerous bones of the Cape Humpback, and I had no difficulty in picking out several specimens of the atlas-vertebra of this animal. I have compared the atlas of the New Zealand animal with one of those from the Cape, and except that the furrow between two anterior articular surfaces for the occipital bone is somewhat broader and deeper in the Cape specimen, there is no appreciable difference between them. It should be stated that the atlas from the Cape is a somewhat larger bone than that from New Zealand.

¹ Ostéographie des Cétacés, p. 130.

² Proc. Zool. Soc., 1864, p. 208, and Catalogue of Seals and Whales, p. 128.

³ Trans. New Zealand Institute, vol. x. p. 335, 1878.