

younger animal *C*, from the Falkland Islands, was also, after a careful comparison with the adult skull, regarded as an immature example of the same *Mesoplodon*, and not as a new species. For although it differed from the adult in some important characters, such as the absence of a mesorostral bone, and of a maxillary buttress, whilst the teeth were embedded in their sockets, yet these are differences which are perfectly explicable on the ground of the immaturity of the specimen, which may have been, perhaps, also of the female sex. That the specimen was immature, was satisfactorily shown by the open condition of the cranial sutures, the lightness, porosity, and indeed fragility of the cranial bones, and the non-ossification with the vertebral bodies of their plate-like epiphyses. I may also mention that my friend Professor Flower, who has also examined the skull, coincided in the opinion that it was an immature *Mesoplodon layardi*.

As the characters of the skull of the adult *Mesoplodon layardi* have been described with more or less fulness of detail by one or other of the naturalists already referred to, it seems unnecessary that I should give a detailed description of specimen *A*. But as no account has yet appeared of so immature a skull as that from the Falkland Islands, it is advisable that it should be described, and the most satisfactory way of recording its characters will be to write a comparative account of the younger and adult crania. In the course of this description I shall pursue almost the same order as that observed in the account which I gave a few years ago of the skull of *Mesoplodon sowerbyi*,<sup>1</sup> so that a ready comparison between the crania of Layard's and Sowerby's whales may be instituted.

In the first place I append a table of the dimensions, expressed in inches, of the crania of these specimens, and along with them I include the measurements of the skull of *Ziphius cavirostris*. The dimensions are taken between the points adopted by Professor Flower in his Memoir on the genus *Mesoplodon*,<sup>2</sup> so that a comparison may be made between these crania and the species *Mesoplodon australis*, *grayi*, and *hectori*, described by him.

	Adult <i>Mesoplodon layardi</i> .	Young <i>Mesoplodon layardi</i> .	<i>Mesoplodon sowerbyi</i> .	Shetland <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> .	New Zealand <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> .
Extreme length of cranium, . . . . .	40½	25	29½	36½	...
Length of rostrum from apex of præmaxilla to middle of line drawn between antorbital notches, . . . . .	27½	14½	19¼	21¼	22¾
From middle of hinder edge of palate, formed by ptery- goids, to apex of rostrum, . . . . .	33	19	22½	27½	...
Greatest height of cranium from vertex to pterygoids, . . . . .	15	10⅞	9½	18	...
Breadth of cranium across middle of superior margin of orbits, . . . . .	16¼	10¼	11¼	20	...

<sup>1</sup> Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin., May 20, 1872, vol. xxvi.

<sup>2</sup> Trans. Zool. Soc. 1877, vol. x.