



Prof. Dr. phil. Emilio A. Goeldi

also some papers on reproductive biology in which he had a special interest. It was Goeldi who discovered the frog, later named *Hyla* (now *Flectonotus*) *goeldii* by George A. Boulenger in 1895, in which the female carries the eggs attached to her back. Unfortunately, Goeldi's major work on herpetology, "Reptis do Brazil," which was completed in 1892-1894, was never published as a single volume but in sections, those on lizards and turtles being issued in 1902 and 1906, respectively; these are mostly compilations from the literature but contain many field notes by Goeldi.

• *References*: "Dr. Emil August Goeldi," by T. S. Palmer, *Auk*, 34: 510, 1917; "Professor Dr. Emil August Goeldi, 1859-1917," by T. Studer, *Verhandl. Schweizer. Naturforsch. Gesellsch.*, 1918: 36-59, 1918; Papavero, 1973 (p. 374); "Emílio Augusto Goeldi—(1859-1917)," by O. R. da Cunha, *Ciênc. e Cult.*, 35: 1965-1972, 1983. • *Portrait* (1895) and *signature* (1897): Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, courtesy Osvaldo Rodrigues da Cunha.

MÉHELÝ, Lajos (1862-1952?).

One of Hungary's eminent zoologists, Ludwig von Méhely (in German form, as he sometimes used) was born in Bodrogszegi (now Kisfalud-Szögi), Hungary, on 24 August 1862, of an aristocratic family. He attended Műegyetem (or Technical) University in Budapest, graduating in 1880, and thereafter taught at schools in Budapest and Brassó until he joined the staff of the Hungarian National Museum, in charge of amphibians and reptiles, in 1896. His earliest papers were on insects, but in 1882 he published the first of about 90 titles on herpetology. Most of the latter were systematic, distributional, and faunistic in nature and dealt with Hungary, but there were also papers on distant places:

Armenia, Ceylon, Paraguay, Persia, the expedition of Baron Eugen Zichy to Siberia, Mongolia, and China, and a series of papers on New Guinea. Vipers and lacertid lizards were topics of special interest, on which he published major monographs and described numerous new taxa, although his views on the proper phylogenetic position of lacertid species brought him into public conflict with George A. Boulenger and Franz Werner. Unfortunately, his most elaborate herpetological work, entitled "Herpetologia Hungarica," for which he won an important prize from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1897, was never published.

In 1913, Méhely was promoted to head of the museum's zoology section, and in 1915 he became Professor of Zoology and Anatomy at Pázmány Péter University of Budapest (now Eötvös Loránd University). His interests gradually turned more to mammals, paleontology and, at the end of his career, to invertebrates. His last major herpetological paper appeared in 1911, but in the meantime his compatriots S. J. Bolkay and G. J. von Fejérváry took over the study of Hungarian amphibians and reptiles. Méhely was a staunch disciple of Charles Darwin and helped to disseminate his views, not only in his scientific publications but also in his semi-popular writing. He retired in 1932 and published his last paper in 1942. He is believed to



Méhely Lajos

have died in 1952, but the exact date is not known because he was held as a political prisoner, near Budapest.

• *References*: "Die wissenschaftliche und literarische Tätigkeit von Ludwig Méhely auf dem Gebiete der Zoologie," by O. G. Dely, *Vertebr. Hungar.*, 9: 21-64, 1967, and supplement by I. Boros and O. G. Dely, same volume: 65-165, 1967. • *Portrait and signature*: Courtesy Oliver G. Dely.