

RECENT LITERATURE.

by Mr. R. Tait, jun.; *Vanessa urticae*, varieties, by Mr. T. Wright; insects found in timber, by Mr. W. Mountford; Lepidoptera varieties, by Mr. B. Prince; British Bembidiidæ, by Mr. R. Wilding; and beautiful specimens of *Dasyampa rubiginea*, *Plusia moneta*, &c., by Mr. J. Collins.

Correction.—I regret that in the account of my exhibit at the Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society's October meeting Mr. W. H. Harwood's Colchester earwig should have been given as *Forficula pubescens* (Serv.) (Entom. xxxv. 331). It should have appeared *F. lesnei* (Fin.). The error was mine,—E. J. B. Sopp.

TIFFINS' SCHOOL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.—We have received a Report of the proceedings of this Society for the year 1902. The Society is connected with Tiffins' Endowed Schools, Kingston-on-Thames, and is affiliated with the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies. The President is Mr. W. J. Lucas, B.A.; the Treasurer, Mr. C. J. Grist, M.A.; and the Hon. Secretary, R. H. Carter. The business transacted during the year appears to have been extensive and varied. A number of lectures were delivered, and most of these were illustrated by photos and micro-photographs projected on the screen. Among the lectures was one on "Insects" by the President. Excursions were made during the season to various Surrey localities for the purpose of collecting and studying objects of Natural History, and it may be added that several of the members are greatly interested in Entomology.

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L. MELICHAR. Monographie der Acanaloniiden und Flatiden (Homoptera). "Ann. Naturh. Hofmuseums Wien, Band xvi. pp. 178–258 (June 14th, 1902) and Band xvii. pp. 1–253 (1902). Plates i.–ix.

This goodly monograph of 334 pages completes the revision of the *Pekillopterinae* (sens. lat.), the "*Ricaniiden*" having been surveyed previously.* It is one of the most important Rhynchotal works that have appeared for some time, and students of that neglected order will be proportionately grateful to the author. I think, however, that an introduction, dealing with the salient points in the morphology of these insects and summarizing their geographical distribution and so forth, would have enhanced its value.

The "*Acanaloniidæ*"† are distinguished by the absence of cross nervures on the costal margin of the tegmina and of granules on the clavus; the posterior tibiæ are spineless. The "*Flatidæ*" (subf.) have cross nervures in the clearly marked-off costal membrane; the clavus is always more or less granulate, and the posterior tibiæ are furnished with one, two, or three spines each.

Six *Acanaloniid* genera are recognized, with 26 species; of these, 2 genera and 6 species are new. These 26 species are all American, with one exception—the African *Parathiscia conjugata*.

* See 'Entomologist,' 1899, p. 263.

† Dr. Melichar unfortunately follows Lethierry and Severin in employing identical horismology for families and subfamilies, a very confusing practice.

Of the "Flatidæ," 85 genera are recorded, with 497 valid and 85 doubtful species; of these, 42 genera and 255 species are described as new. It may be noted that of these, 32 genera are erected with only a single species apiece; on the other hand, *Elidiptera* (= *Flatoides*) is credited with 91 and *Ormenis* with 77 species. The genera, as founded or confirmed by Melichar, appear to be well defined geographically. Roughly analysed, there are 25 genera confined to the Oriental Region,* 20 to the Ethiopian Region,† 11 to Central and South America and the Antilles, 7 to Australia and Polynesia, 6 to the Palearctic Region,‡ 6 of mixed distribution or more or less cosmopolitan. Only 8 genera, with 17 species, have been described from Continental Australia, doubtless a small proportion. Of the 20 exclusively Ethiopian genera, 8 are confined to Madagascar.

While according every praise to the descriptions, analytical tables of genera and species, and to the excellent plates with figures of 179 species, I must take exception to certain details of Dr. Melichar's nomenclature. The principal mistakes or differences of opinion which I have noted are as follows:—

Band xvi.—P. 185. *Acanalonia umbraculata* (Fabr.) = *florea*, Stål. I know of no reason for sinking Fabricius' name. The date of "Vet. Akad. Verh. viii. p. 86," is, of course, 1869, not 1835.

P. 203. Stål was quite correct in erecting a new genus *Phromnia* for *floccosa* and its allies, the type of *Flata* having been fixed by Fabricius in 1803 as *ocellata*.

P. 218. *Cerynia*, Stål, K. Svenska Vetensk. Akad. Handl. iii. no. 6, p. 68 (1861).

P. 220. *Cerynia maria* var. *rosea*, Melich. 1902, = var. *rosea*, Atkinson, 1886, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, lv. pt. 2, p. 64; from Sikkim.

P. 222. *Cenestra*, Stål, K. Svenska Vetensk. Akad. Handl. iii. no. 6, p. 68 (1861).

P. 223. *Paramelicharia* n. n. = *Copsyrna*, Melichar (nec Stål typ.). Type *maculata* (Guér.).

P. 224. *Copsyrna*, Stål, K. Svenska Vet. Akad. iii. no. 6, p. 69; = *Bythopsyrna* Melich. Type *tineoides* (Oliv.).

Melichar fixes the type of *Copsyrna* as *maculata*. Unfortunately, six months previously I had fixed it as *tineoides* (Oliv.), the other original species, the only one I was acquainted with. My paper in the J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. was (p. 54) published Jan. 24, 1902; Melichar's Band xvi. June 17th, 1902.

P. 251. *Pseudoflata postica* (Spin. 1839) = *nigricornis*, Guér. 1848 (not 1838).

Band xvii.—P. 19. *Flata*, Fabr. typ. = *Cryptoflata*, Melichar (see my remarks on *Phromnia*).

P. 30. *Carthæa*; type *caudata*, Stål, Svensk. Vet. iii. p. 68, not *emortua*, as indicated by Melichar.

P. 32. *C. folium-ambulans* (de Geer) = *emortua* (Fabr.).

Pp. 83-4. *Ormenis mendax*, Mel., is stated to come from "Moupin," and Melichar adds, "Dieser Ort scheint in Centralafrika im Congo-

* That is, including Japan, excluding New Guinea, &c.

† Including Madagascar.

‡ Excluding Japan, whose Fulgorid fauna seems to be more Oriental.

gebiete zu liegen (Mupe)." Moupin, however, is well known through the researches of the late Père David,* and is one of the most interesting districts of the world, at a great elevation, on the other side of the Snowy Mountains of China (31° N., 101° E.), near Makin on the Yalong source of the Yang-tse-Kiang.

Pp. 58 & 107.—*Colgar*, Mel., is not equivalent to *Colgar*, Kirk. In founding this genus, I made it homotypical with the preoccupied genus *Atella*, Stål, stating the type to be *C. peracuta* (Walker). As this was one of Stål's original species (1866, Berlin. Ent. Zeit. p. 394), and as the genotype had not been fixed previously, my application of it cannot rightly be disputed. Walker's *peracuta* does not figure, however, in Melichar's idea of *Colgar*, but in his application of *Cromna*, Walker. *Cromna*, Walk., however, does not equal, in a restricted sense, *Cromna*, Mel., for the only species, originally included by Walker, is not found in Melichar's genus. The following synonymy will illuminate the puzzle:—

1. *Phyllyphanta*, Am. & Serv., 1843 = *Cromna*, Walker, 1857. Type of the former, *P. producta* (Spinola). Type of the latter, *C. acutipennis*, Walker.

2. *Colgar*, Kirk., 1900 = *Atella*, Stål., 1866 (preocc.) = *Cromna*, Melich., 1902. Type, *peracuta* (Walker).

3. *Neomelicharia*, n. n. = *Colgar*, Mel., 1902, nec Kirk., 1900. Type, *cruentata* (Fabr.).

P. 173.—*Elidiptera*, Spin., 1839 = *Flatoides*, 1843 = *Helicoptera*, Am. & Serv., 1843.

P. 173.—*Cerfennia*, Stål. (not *Cerfenia*). The original reference to Spinola's 1839 genera is Revue Zool. pp. 199-206.

The genus *Hansenia* should be credited to me (as it is in the index), and not to Melichar. My manuscript was sent in to the Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. early in 1900 (not at the end of 1901, as printed), but was not published till January 24th, 1902. Melichar's monograph was issued subsequently to this. Melichar has, however, unfortunately followed my mistake of identifying the *Pæcilopectera glauca* of Kirby with *P. pulverulenta* of Guérin. The two have nothing in common, and while the former is from Ceylon, the latter is from Mexico, and is rightly placed in *Ormenis* elsewhere in the monograph. The synonymy of *Hansenia glauca* will be as follows:—

Genus *HANSENIA*, Kirk., 1902, Journ. Bombay Soc. p. 53; Melich., 1902, Ann. Wien. Bd. xvi. pp. 195 & 228.

Type, *H. glauca* (Kirby).

Pæcilopectera glauca, Kirby, 1891, J. L. S. xxiv. p. 154. *Hansenia pulverulenta*, Kirk., p. 54; Mel., p. 229 (nec *Pæcilopectera pulverulenta*, Guérin).

These discrepancies are, however, comparatively slight, and the fact remains that for the first time we have lucid descriptions of all the species—except some of the Walkerian—of which about one-half are described as new. It is hoped that a considerable stimulus will thus be given to the study of these beautiful insects.

G. W. KIRKALDY.

* I am indebted to Dr. Sharp for refreshing my memory on this point.