

DESCRIPTION OF *TYPHLOCYBA TILIAE*, GEOFFR.

BY JAMES EDWARDS.

Having made the acquaintance of this insect, and ascertained the equity of its claim to rank as a distinct species, which has been much questioned, it has occurred to me that a detailed description and some comparative remarks might be acceptable.

Head bright yellow. Pronotum in front bright yellow, behind whitish, anterior margin with three large, nearly round, whitish spots. Scutellum deeply transversely impressed on apical third, with a reddish triangular spot at each basal angle. Elytra milk-white; clavus, anterior margin of corium broadly, and 1st, 2nd, and 4th cells of membrane, fuscous. Corium more or less sprinkled with reddish atoms placed more closely along the course of the 1st nerve, and forming a more or less distinct patch between the apex of the 1st and 2nd nerves; membrane, 3rd cell, milk-white, nerves yellow. Legs pale yellowish; ♂, 1st and 2nd pairs, tarsal claws fuscous; 3rd pair, tarsi entirely, and extreme apex of tibia, black; ♀, as in *T. blandula*. Abdomen yellow, base sometimes blackish.

Length, 1½ lin.; expanse, 3½ lin.

Exceedingly like pale examples of *T. blandula*, but differs in being slightly larger, and in the markings on the pronotum, which characters

will always serve to separate the females of the two species. The difference in the form of the outer genital processes of the ♂ of the two species, will be seen from the figures:

(1) *tilia*, (2) *blandula*.

Beaten from firs at Ringland, not uncommonly in March, but very local.

Bracondale, Norwich:

18th September, 1877.

NOTES ON AFRICAN HEMIPTERA-HETEROPTERA.

BY W. L. DISTANT.

In a small collection of *Hemiptera* made by Mr. Simons at Livingstonia, Lake Nyassa, the same general absence of new species was observed as is recorded by Mr. Hewitson (p. 51 *ante*) of the *Rhopalocera* in the same collection. There seems no doubt that the East African fauna undergoes little change till the longitude of the Great

Lakes is passed, and Commander Cameron, though his attention was chiefly directed to geographical exploration, bears testimony to the same fact. "To the west of Tanganyika a new geographical, ethnological, zoological, entomological, and botanical region is entered." ("Across Africa," vol. ii, p. 311). Unfortunately, the *Hemiptera* had been preserved in sawdust impregnated with carbolic acid, which had discoloured a large portion of the specimens, and rendered them somewhat difficult to determine.

SCUTATA.

The species belong to the East African fauna, with a slight amount of variation in some cases from the typical forms. *Hotea subfasciata* and *Brachyplatys pallipes*, found also in the Calabar district, were in the collection, as was also the wide-ranging *Aethus indicus*.

HOTEA SUBFASCIATA, Westw. & Hope, var.

This variety has its most constant character in the slightly produced and almost spineless condition of the lateral angles of the thorax, and diverges only from the typical form in some specimens by a visible serration on the anterior part of the lateral edges of the thorax, and sometimes by a considerable increase in size. I do not, however, consider any of these characters as sufficiently differentiated at present to give them a specific character, as the type of *subfasciata* in the Hope collection at Oxford has the lateral angles of the thorax very slightly produced, and in a long series of that species from W. Africa, I can detect instances where the thoracic serration is also visible. Size too is of little value, as in eight specimens I possess from Livingstonia, scarcely more than two agree altogether in that respect.

The real distinction between *H. subfasciata* and *H. gambiæ*, the other dominant African species, is the formation of the ventral segments, as pointed out by Dr. Stål in his "Hemiptera Africana," and drawings of which have most obligingly been forwarded to me by Prof. Westwood.

The East Asian species, *H. curculionoides*, H.-Schäff., follows the same variation and wide range of habitat. It is recorded from Sumatra, Malacca, Java, Timor, Celebes, Amboina, and China; and of its variability in colour, Vollenhoven remarks, "L'individu le plus clair en couleur est de Java, le plus foncé est d'Amboine."

CYCLOGASTER DELEGORGUEI, Spin. ? (*Natalicola Delegorguei*) Gen. d'Ins. arthroid., Mem. Soc. Ital., xxv (1852), p. 110. *Gonielytrum circuliventre*, Stål, Öfv. Vet. Ak. Förh., x (1853), p. 223.

TRN H000209 Rider, David
 Col.

By all the authors I have seen, the above have been placed as synonyms of *C. pallidus*, Westw. There is in this species, however, a very constant character in a small, oblong, post-discal cell of the corium, as shown in Westwood's fig., Trans. Ent. Soc., ii, pl. 2, fig. 6 (1837), and as I have also seen, by an examination of the type with Prof. Westwood at Oxford. This does not exist in any of my specimens (♂ or ♀) from Livingstonia, and the last joint of the antennæ is much longer than the third, thus also differing from Westwood's fig. This last character, and the larger size of the body, agree with Stål's description of *Gonielytrum circuliventre*, but I have used Spinola's name as being the oldest and probably the correct one, thus following Dr. Stål himself.

REDUVIIDÆ.

This family is well represented in this small collection, and also belongs to the East African fauna. *Lestomerus ancicollis*, figured by Schaum in Peters, Reis. Mossamb., is included, with its immature forms.

CATAMIARUS NYASSÆ, n. sp.

Black, pilose, somewhat shining below. Hind lobe of prothorax obscure chocolate-brown. Antennæ pilose, first and second joints black, third and fourth brownish, basal joints somewhat pubescent, second and third joints sub-equal in length. Ante-ocular part of the head, basal joint of the rostrum, anterior part of frontal lobe of prothorax, a triangular patch on each side of corium (of which the bases are on the outer edges, and the points almost meet below apex of scutellum), six sub-quadrangle spots on each abdominal border (of which the apical one is small and somewhat indistinct), apex of abdomen above, edges of abdominal segments below (excepting on disc), a narrow spiracular longitudinal line on each abdominal border, and legs (including coxæ), densely silvery pubescent, somewhat yellowish on upper side of body. Front lobe of prothorax longitudinally and rugosely striated, with a distinct central longitudinal furrow, hind lobe confluent rugose. Membrane somewhat opaque. Claws reddish-brown. Length, 10 lines.

This is a very interesting species, belonging to a genus of which only one other representative is as yet known, *C. brevipennis*, Serv., from Hindostan.

There are some other new forms to be described; but, in the present discoloured condition of some of them, I prefer waiting for fresh material before giving any further descriptions.

1, Selston Villas, Derwent Grove,
East Dulwich: September 1st, 1877.

Entomological Notes of a Tour in Egypt and Syria.—During the early spring of 1876, I spent some time in Egypt, and a short time in Jerusalem and its neighbourhood. The following brief notes of a few insects which I brought back may be of some interest. My captures were chiefly among *Coleoptera*, from the comparative ease in taking and preserving them, but I will first say something about the other Orders, especially as I shall not attempt to arrange these notes after any scientific method.

In the brilliant narrow river margin, which constitutes the greatest extent of Egypt, there are but few *Lepidoptera* to be seen in the early months of the year. The wider plains of the Delta may be richer in this respect. By far the most common species is *Danais Chrysippus*: it swarmed in gorgeous luxuriance in the rich gardens of the Gezeerah Palace, and other similar places about Cairo. Some species of *Pieris*, *Anthocharis*, and *Lycæna*, calling for no special notice, were seen along the banks of the Nile, but were few and far between. In Syria, indeed, *Lepidoptera* were far better represented; but, as I have not yet acquired the art of butterfly-hunting on horseback, I captured very few; those I took being principally some *Zygæna* at rest, taken during our mid-way halts.

I took a few *Hymenoptera*; they included *Xylocopa astuans*, L., which flow in a strong way across the Nile, and my specimens of which I captured buzzing about our dahabeeah.

Tetralonia ruficollis, Brullé, occurred on the banks.

Chalicodoma sicula, Rossi, was to be captured by thousands; its favourite resort is the old walls of Egyptian temples, which it plasters over to an amazing extent, entirely covering up all inscriptions, or sculpture, that may be thereon.

Scolia similis, Fab., burrows abundantly in the sand; and the black wasp *Eumenes tinctor*, Christ., was not rare.

As far as I observed, in Egypt (though I must confess that my examination was a very superficial one) the variety of *Coleoptera* is somewhat limited. The time of year may partly account for this, but there is too small a food area, in Upper Egypt at all events, to sustain a great number. The species one perhaps meets with most frequently are *Pimelia asperata* and *P. grandis*, Klug, with *Ocnera hispida*, Forsk., and *Adesmia Pariseti*, Solier. These ugly black beetles are very common in the long lightless passages so numerous in the huge temples: they live, I believe, in such localities principally on the droppings of the countless bats which dwell in these gloomy vaults, and whose chief function in life seems to be to flap in the inquisitive traveller's face, and chill him to the marrow with confused fears of restless angry spirits of prince or priest of the age of the Pharaohs.

Scarabæus sacer, L., kept itself in proud seclusion, and I was rarely favoured with a sight of the living mystic symbol, but its sculptured effigy, with wide-spread wings of protection, stretches over temple gate or hall; or, graven as a signet, is offered by the persistent "fellah," at many times its weight in gold. Its giant relative *Heliocopris Isidis*, Savigny, was rather less exclusive. In the neighbourhood of the Apis Mausoleum, at Sakkarah, I took one specimen, and saw a few more, of the pretty black and white *Graphipterus variegatus*, Fab., which jumps in an aggravated *Cicindela*-like style, quite as nimble as the most lively tiger-beetle.

Among other *Coleoptera* taken in Egypt, were *Zophosis abbreviata*, Kl., *Tentyria discicollis*, Reiche, *Himatismus villosus*, Dej., *Ocnera Genei*, Solier, *Pedinus punctulatus*, Muls., and *Leucoromus (Gonocleonus) senectus*, Schönh.