

1889

Author Card

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[³Extracted from *Matabele Land and the Victoria Falls; from the Letters and Journals of the late FRANK OATES, F.R.G.S. Second Edition.* London, Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1889.]

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APPENDIX IV.

ENTOMOLOGY.

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(Order RHYNCHOTA.)

By W. L. DISTANT.

The small collection of insects belonging to this order, made by Mr. F. Oates, comprised only eight species, all belonging to the family PENTATOMIDÆ; of these, however, four prove to be undescribed species, thus showing that Matabele Land possesses a Rhynchotal fauna of which at present we know very little. The collection also proves of considerable interest in the study of geographical distribution, as it included a species of the oriental genus *Erthesina*, of which no Ethiopian representative was previously known to entomological science.

Family PENTATOMIDÆ.

✓ I. PLONISA PLAGIATA, Signoret, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr., ser. 6 i. p. 327, pl. 7, f. 52 (1881).

Cydonia

✓ 2. SOLENOSTETHIUM LILIGERUM, Thunberg.

Cimex liligerus, Thunberg, Nov. Ins. Sp., ii. p. 32 (1783).

✓ 3. ERTHESINA AFRICANA, n. sp.

Closely allied to the common eastern species *E. fullo*, Thunberg, but differing in the following respects; the size is much smaller, and whilst the colour and markings above are very similar, the corium is without the discal dark patch. The body beneath is much darker than in Thunberg's species, the margins of the prosternum and the under surface of the head being black; the abdomen is castaneous, with a very large opaque black macular patch on each side, occupying the whole of the disk, excepting the two basal and two apical segments; legs very dark, castaneous or blackish.

Other peculiar structural characters differentiating this species from *E. fullo* are the more symmetrical head, which is more tapering, has the lateral margins more regular and not notched, the apex regularly and profoundly sinuate, both notched in front and channelled above, and the eyes a little more removed from the base, the pronotum having the lateral angles a little broader, and the slightly larger scutellum with two large dark rounded foveæ at the basal angles. The membrane is pale fuscous, with the veins dark and very distinct. (Antennæ mutilated.) The tibiæ are only slightly dilated. Long. 19 mm. Exp. pronot. angl. 10 mm.

This is the only African species of *Erthesina* yet described, and, despite some slight structural peculiarities as detailed above, it is still in all fundamental respects congeneric with the other species of the genus, which are wholly oriental.

✓ 4. CÆNOMORPHA IMPLEXA, n. sp.

Obscure ochraceous, thickly but irregularly covered with coarse, dark fuscous punctures. Head and eyes black, the central lobe for two-thirds of its length from the base regularly margined with confluent blackish punctures; antennæ black, fourth joint with a broad central ochraceous annulation (fifth joint mutilated); scutellum with five small ochraceous spots on the basal margin, the apex more sparsely punctate; membrane dark fuscous, its apical margin somewhat paler; connexivum dark brownish, coarsely punctate and somewhat obscurely annulated with ochraceous; body beneath and legs as above; coxæ and bases of the femora obscure ochraceous; tibiæ blackish, with a broad central ochraceous annulation; rostrum brownish, with the apex piceous. Long. 18 mm. Lat. pronot. angl. 9 mm.

✓ 5. AFRANIA BRACHYPTERA, Schaum.

Agonoscelis brachyptera, Schaum in Peters's Reise Mossamb., Zool. v. p. 37, pl. 2. f. 2 (1862).

✓ 6. NEZARA VIRIDULA, Stal, Erum. Hem., ii. p. 41 (1872).

✓ 7. ASPONGOPUS JAPETUS, n. sp.

Ochraceous; head, antennæ, two large transverse spots near anterior margin of pronotum, membrane, connexivum, body, abdomen above, and body beneath and legs black.

The antennæ have the second joint considerably longer than the first and very slightly longer than the second, the fourth longest and distinctly incrassated (fifth mutilated). The body is finely and somewhat obscurely punctate both above and beneath. The femora are not spined, but the tibiæ are longitudinally serrate or spinous. Long. 18 mm. Lat. pronot. angl. 10 mm.

This species is allied to the Indian *A. Janus*, Fabricius, from which it is superficially discriminated by the unicolorous scutellum, the different colour of the connexivum, etc.

✓ 8. DALSIRA ASPERATA, n. sp.

Testaceous, very coarsely punctate; head and anterior third of pronotum ochraceous, the punctures testaceous; pronotum with two transverse testaceous foveæ near anterior margin; scutellum with three small ochraceous basal spots, two near basal angles and one central; corium, with basal third of costal margin, claval suture, and a submarginal basal line, ochraceous; membrane pale fuscous, the apical margin pale hyaline spotted with fuscous. Body beneath testaceous, thickly punctured with fuscous; margins of the sternum and abdominal spiracles ochraceous, rostrum and legs testaceous, apex of rostrum fuscous. Antennæ testaceous, second joint a little longer than first (remainder mutilated). Eyes blackish.

The pronotum and base of scutellum are rugulose; the pronotum has the lateral angles broadly rounded, the lateral margins nearly straight. Long. 17 mm. Lat. pronot. angl. 10 mm.

The nearest allied species is *D. foveata*, Dallas.