

Distant 1892

author card

Pentatomids catalogued

on computer

A

type info recorded



NATURALIST

IN

THE TRANSVAAL.

BY

W. L. DISTANT,

MEMBER OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FRANCE,
FELLOW OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,
AND CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF STOCKHOLM
AND OF THE BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.

WITH COLOURED PLATES AND ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS.

"Nature retains her veil, despite our clamours:
That which she doth not willingly display
Cannot be wrenched from her with levers, screws, and hammers."
— 'Faust' (Bayard Taylor's Transl.).

LONDON:

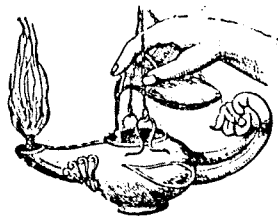
R. H. PORTER, 18 PRINCES STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE, W.
1892.

[All Rights reserved.]

1890

AFRICANA
968.2
D 614-n

ALERE FLAMMAM.



PRINTED BY TAYLOR AND FRANCIS,
RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET.

TO THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER,

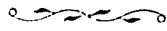
Alexander Distant,

WHO, IN OLD SOUTH-SEA WHALING-DAYS, SAILED
ROUND AND ROUND THE WORLD,
AND TRANSMITTED A LOVE OF ROAMING TO HIS SONS,

I DEDICATE THIS BOOK.

1047942

PREFACE.



THE following pages record the impressions of a naturalist, who, during a twelve months' business sojourn in the Transvaal, deprived of the society of family and friends, employed the whole of his leisure time in that most delightful consolation—zoological recreation.

In my schoolboy days a journey through the Transvaal would have almost attained the dignity of an exploration; now Pretoria can be reached in three weeks' time from London, and the once long wagon-trek from the Cape is replaced by less than two days' train and a little more than two days' coach service. But this facility of transit, so valued by the business man and so necessary to the material development of the country, has deprived the sportsman of a hunting-ground and curtailed the view of the naturalist. No longer do vast herds of ruminants roam over these solitary plains, for when commerce reached the land, and bid for the skins of the buck and antelope, the Boer accepted the price and slaughtered, if not actually exterminated, the finest

ruminant fauna that ever a land possessed. Further inland the Kafir, armed with a gun, pursues the same desultory warfare, and this portion of Southern Africa has completely lost what was once its most distinctive zoological feature. This animal extinction has also reacted on the Boer himself: now no longer the mighty hunter, he will soon cease to be the matchless marksman as of old; and his life on the solitary farm is thereby rendered more monotonous, for the gun was once his constant companion. When railways intersect the country the ox-wagon will gradually disappear, and with it the last characteristic feature of the old "voortrekkers."

The Transvaal is thus changed in its natural aspects from a tract once supporting an immense number of wild animals, and peopled by rugged farmers who lived a semi-pastoral, semi-hunting existence, to a country becoming progressively subject to European laws and customs, in which the earlier rough struggle for existence is now transformed into a race for wealth. The lawyer and the financier thrive where in recent years the lion and leopard fought for food, and townships have sprung up on spots where living Boers have formerly shot big game.

I thus saw the old order changing, and a state basing its progress solely on the foundation of auriferous reefs, for the future of the Transvaal largely depends upon the development of its mineral wealth. But the real Boer population form no appreciable portion of the inhabitants which reside in the large towns and depend on commerce and mining; the true Boer is still a

farmer, and a few high officials do not adequately represent the characteristics of what—let alone—would have formed a distinct race of Dutch people. I hope I have been fair with these emigrant farmers, whom I really respect, but it is difficult to steer clear of both Boer and British prejudice: the first resents any criticism, the second criticises in a too sweeping and trenchant manner.

In an Appendix I have given an enumeration of my zoological collections, which were much assisted by an old and valued servant, Timothy Donovan, who accompanied me to the Transvaal. The proportion of new species is perhaps as high as might have been expected from the number of specimens collected, which may provide the material by which to commence a tabulation of the fauna of the Pretoria District, and also show that even a busy man, during his leisure hours, may do some not altogether useless biological work.

The lamented death of my friend, Mr. H. W. Bates, as these pages were passing through the press, adds a melancholy reflection to the obligations I am under, for his reading of my proofs with valuable suggestions. These were probably the last of the many friendly offices he undertook to aid his favourite study and to oblige his friends.

To the specialist friends who have aided me in working out my collections I render my best thanks, and have individually acknowledged their kind help when enumerating the different Orders in the Appendix. My travelling companion, Mr. Henry Blackwell, Jun.,

er
me
ica
ive
lso
ity
ks-
is
vas
ect
nd
or-
cts
of
ed
try
nd
x-
he
urs
ps
ve
te
r-
ds
he
he
id
a

who allowed the use of some photographs taken by himself, has placed me under great obligation, and I am also indebted to the painstaking care of my artists, Mr. P. J. Smit and Mr. W. Purkiss. Last, but not least, my thanks are due to my publisher for having afforded me every facility to produce this small book in a worthy guise and manner.

Purley, Surrey.

February, 1892.

y
n
s,
t
g
n

CONTENTS.



	PAGE
DEDICATION	v
PREFACE	vii
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	xv

CHAPTER I.

TO PRETORIA.

Sail for South Africa.—Passengers illustrate evolutionary factors in the formation of a Colony.—Zoological observations at sea.—Flying-fish.—Malays at Cape Town.—South-African Museum.—Port Elizabeth.—Different routes to the Transvaal.—Durban.—Railway views between Durban and Newcastle.—Coach-travelling and its incidents.—Majuba Hill and scenes of late Boer War.—Extermination of the ruminant-fauna.—Johannesburg after the boom.—Pretoria; botanical features; design of the town 1

CHAPTER II.

THE BOER.

Where are the Boers?—The Boer a farmer.—Grass-fires and their consequences.—Habits of the farmer.—Peculiar theology of the Boer which governs his life and action.—Boer relations to the Kafirs.—Violence of Church disputes.—President Krüger.—Some causes of the Boer War.—The Boers as soldiers.—Homely life of the President; his great influence with the Boers.—Many farmers now wealthy men.—Physical characteristics of the Boers; their supposed dislike to the British; their mistrust of the Hollanders 20

CHAPTER III.

PHASES OF NATURE AROUND PRETORIA.

	PAGE
Natural aspects in the dry winter season.—Orthoptera and Coleoptera.—	
Commencement of the rainy season.—Protective resemblance in	
butterflies.—Vegetable tanning-products.—Survival of spined and	
hard-wooded trees in the struggle for existence with herbivorous	
fauna.—Baboons.—Bad roads.—A Boer farm.—Grass-fires.—Dust-	
storm.—Vast quantities of beetles under stones.—Bad weather and	
heavy losses in live stock.—Appearance of winged Termites.—	
Swollen streams and their dangers.—Accidental dangers in animal	
life.—Birds of Prey	38

CHAPTER IV.

PHASES OF NATURE AROUND PRETORIA (continued).

Geological features.—Dendritic markings.—The highlands and the sea.—	
Heavy rains and floods.—A protected butterfly and its enemy.—	
Mimicry.—Cicadas.—Species found both in England and the	
Transvaal.—The Secretary-bird.—Vultures.—Locust-swarm.—The	
Paauw and other Bustards.—The Monitor.—Partridges.—Evolu-	
tion and struggle for existence	58

CHAPTER V.

THROUGH WATERBERG.

Scarcity of timber in the Transvaal.—Leave Pretoria for Waterberg.—	
Waterless region of the Flats.—The Warm Baths.—Beautiful	
scenery.—Euphorbias and their poisonous qualities.—Fever dis-	
tricts.—The Massacre at Makapan's Poort.—Sanguinary retribution	
at Makapan's Cave.—A fine orthopterous insect.—The Prospector.	
—Reptiles.—Ravages of the "Australian Bug."—Majuba day.—	
Mimicking insects	77

CHAPTER VI.

ZOUTPANSBERG AND THE MAGWAMBAS.

	PAGE
Start for the Spelonken in Zoutpansberg.—Horse-sickness.—Pietersburg. —A fine Convolvulus.—A castellated residence in the Wilds.— Night in a wagon.—Kafir traders.—Kafirs on the tramp.—Poly- gamy.—The Magwambas, their customs and institutions.—An ox feast and dance.—The Makatese.—The Mavendas and their iron- work.—Birds' food largely orthopterous.—Good entomological spots. —Zoutpansberg with its natural riches still undeveloped	94

GE

38

CHAPTER VII.

A JOURNEY TO DURBAN.

<i>Acacia mollissima</i> .—Heavy cost on imports to the Transvaal.—Johannes- burg and its Hotels.—Heidelberg.—A Priest of Islam.—Across the Ingogo heights to Newcastle.—Durban.—Colonel Bowker.— Best collecting-grounds around Durban.—Flowers, fruit, and insects. —Peculiarities in railway construction.—Model Natal farms.— Insect-pests to gardens.—Difficulties in coaching after heavy rains. —The store- and canteen-keeper of the veld	115
---	-----

8

CHAPTER VIII.

THE MEN OF PRETORIA.

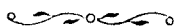
The inhabitants of Pretoria.—Auriferous wealth alone the present cause of Transvaal development.—Uneducated condition of the Boers.— Liquor traffic with the Kafirs.—The British colonist in the Trans- vaal.—The Hebrew in Pretoria.—Commercial morality.—The name of Mr. Gladstone execrated in the Transvaal.—The Kafir and his value as a labourer.—Sanitary condition of Pretoria.—Vital statis- tics.—After-effects of the boom.—Attachment of Colonists to their adopted country	132
--	-----

APPENDIX.

	PAGE
Enumeration and Description of the Anthropological and Zoological Objects collected by the Author, with Contributions by ERNEST E. AUSTEN, Zool. Dept. Brit. Mus., G. A. BOULENGER, Zool. Dept. Brit. Mus., F.Z.S., JULES. BOURGEOIS, M.E.Soc.Fr., J. H. DUBRANT, F.E.S., C. J. GAHAN, M.A., Zool. Dept. Brit. Mus., Rev. H. S. GORHAM, F.Z.S., MARTIN JACOBY, F.E.S., R. I. POCOCK, Zool. Dept. Brit. Mus., H. DE SAUSSURE, Socius hon. Soc. ent. Lond. Rossic. Belg., &c., &c., Prof. C. STEWART, Pres. Linn. Soc., &c., &c., and the AUTHOR	151
MAMMALIA	157
AVES	163
REPTILIA AND BATRACHIA	173
ARACHNIDA AND MYRIOPODA	179
INSECTA	187

INDEX	263

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.



	PAGE
Makapan's Cave	<i>Frontispiece</i>
Good-bye to the Tender	1
Pier-head, Cape Town	4
Changing Mules on the Veld	10
View in the Town of Pretoria	15
Boer Wagon with Firewood	20
President Krüger	29
<i>Chera progne</i> . Male in nuptial plumage	38
Batrachians devouring Termites	49
After the Rains. Coleoptera	51
<i>Buteo desertorum</i> . Post of Observation	56
Dendritic Markings in Quartzite	58
<i>Hemisaga prædatoria</i> , n. sp.	63
Locust-swarm in Pretoria	71
The Monitor (<i>Varanus niloticus</i>)	77
<i>Clonia wahlbergi</i>	83
Native Hut, Spelonken	94

	PAGE
Castellated Residence in Zoutpansberg	97
Magwamba Woman crushing Meal	101
Native Arts of the Spelonken <i>facing</i>	102
Magwamba War-Axes	103
Magwamba Assegais and Shield	105
Native Iron-smelting	109
Magwamba Carvings	114
Apple-destroyers in Natal	115
<i>Mylabris transversalis</i> on Rose	127
Kafir Shepherd	132
Native Policeman	141
<i>Glauconia distanti</i>	175
<i>Spirostreptus transvaalicus</i>	182

COLOURED PLATES :

Tab. I. New Species of Coleoptera.

II. ,, Rhynchota.

III. ,, Lepidoptera and Rhynchota.

IV. ,, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, and Coleoptera.

UNCOLOURED PLATE :

Tab. V. New Species of Arachnida and Hymenoptera.

canary-yellow, and the underside of the fore wings deep purplish fuscous, with the apical third of the costa and the cilia dull ochreous. Exp. al. 18 millim. (J. H. D.)

DIPTERA.

(By ERNEST E. AUSTEN, Zool. Dept. Brit. Mus.)

Fam. TABANIDÆ.

Pangonia subfascia, Wlk.

Silvius denticornis, Wied.

Tabanus socius, Wlk.

Atylotus, sp. (allied to *Tabanus (Atylotus) diurnus*, Wlk.).

Fam. ASILIDÆ.

Microstylum dispar, Lw.

Microstylum, sp. (? nov.—Closely allied to *M. gulosum*, Lw.).

Lophonotus, sp. (? nov.).

Lophonotus, sp. (? nov.—Allied to *L. ustulatus*, Lw.).

Fam. MUSCIDÆ.

Calliphora marginalis, Wied.

Musca domestica, L.

Fam. SARCOPHAGIDÆ.

Sarcophaga, sp.

Fam. HIPPOBOSCIDÆ.

Hippobosca rufipes, Olfers.

[This species not only attacks horses, but also frequently attached itself to my neck. (W. L. D.)]

RHYNCHOTA.

HETEROPTERA.

The open plains which surround Pretoria are not calculated to prove a home for many species of this order, though the tall blooming grasses and Asclepiads (*Gomphocarpus*) are particularly attractive to Lygæids (the rare *Lygæus*

septus, Germ., was thus found), whilst many species, especially Reduviids, were only met with under stones and pieces of quartzite. These are favourite situations during the dry season for many insects; and even Pentatomidæ are no exception to the rule, but in a bare and treeless region find their only shelter under the rocky débris which strew the plains. On the wing, species of the genus *Aspongopus* and *Anoplocnemis curvipes* are the most abundant, and appearing early, fly throughout the summer season, whilst during the same period the stridulation of *Platypleura divisa* is heard from most of the willow trees that abound in Pretoria. I was surprised to find how many small beetles become the prey of the *Reduviids*, and the rostrum of *Physorhynchus patricius* produces more intense pain than the bite or puncture of any other insect with which I am acquainted.

Small as the material collected is, I am able to add a new genus and fifteen species hitherto unrecorded in entomological literature.

Fam. PENTATOMIDÆ.

Subfam. SCUTELLERINÆ.

- ✓ *Steganocerus multipunctatus*, Thunb. Pretoria.
 ✓ *Callidea natalensis*, Stål. Pretoria.

Subfam. CYDNINÆ.

- ✓ *Dismegistus fimbriatus*, Thunb. Waterberg.

Subfam. ASOPINÆ.

- ✓ *Glypsus mæstus*, Germ. Pretoria.
 ✓ *Glypsus conspicuus*, Hope. Pretoria.
 ✓ *Cimex figuratus*, Germ., var. n. Pretoria.

Subfam. PENTATOMINÆ.

- ✓ *Cænomorpha nervosa*, Dall. Pretoria.
 ✓ *Paramecocoris ventralis*, Germ. Pretoria.
 ✓ *Paramecocoris atomarius*, Dall. Pretoria.
 ✓ *Tropicorypha corticina*, Germ. Pretoria.
 ✓ *Holcostethus obscuratus*, sp. n. Pretoria.
 ✓ *Halyomorpha capitata*, sp. n. Zoutpansberg.

✓✓ <i>Halyomorpha pretoriæ</i> , sp. nov.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Veterna sanguineirostris</i> , Thunb.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Veterna pugionata</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Veterna patula</i> , sp. n.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Veterna subrufa</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Caura rufiventris</i> , Germ.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Dichelocephala lanceolata</i> , Fabr.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Carbula trisignata</i> , Germ.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Agonoscelis versicolor</i> , Fabr.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Agonoscelis erosa</i> , Hope.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Agonoscelis puberula</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Bagrada hilaris</i> , Burm.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Nezara viridula</i> , Linn.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Nezara capicola</i> , Hope.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Antestia transvaalia</i> , sp. n.	Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Piezodorus purus</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.

Subfam. DINIDORINÆ.

✓✓ <i>Aspongopus japedus</i> , Dist.	Waterberg and Pretoria.
✓✓ <i>Aspongopus nubilus</i> , Hope.	Pretoria.

Subfam. PHYLLOCEPHALINÆ.

✓✓ <i>Gellia angulicollis</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
---------------------------------------	-----------

Fam. COREIDÆ.

Subfam. COREINÆ.

<i>Elasmopoda undata</i> , Dall.	Durban, Natal.
<i>Hoploterna valga</i> , Linn.	Pretoria.
<i>Anoplocnemis curvipes</i> , Fabr.	Pretoria and Durban.
<i>Homæocerus magnicornis</i> , Burm.	Pretoria.
<i>Homæocerus annulatus</i> , Thunb.	Pretoria.
<i>Rhyticoris terminalis</i> , Burm.	Durban, Natal.
<i>Plinactus pungens</i> , Thunb.	Pretoria.
<i>Plinactus falcatus</i> , sp. n.	Pretoria.
<i>Cletus ochraceus</i> , Herr.-Schäff.	Pretoria.
<i>Acanthocoris lugens</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.

Subfam. ALYDINÆ.

<i>Mirperus jaculus</i> , Thunb.	Pretoria.
----------------------------------	-----------

Fam. LYGÆIDÆ.

Subfam. LYGÆINÆ.

<i>Oncopeltus famelicus</i> , Fabr.	Pretoria.
<i>Lygæus elegans</i> , Wolff.	Pretoria.
<i>Lygæus trilineatus</i> , Fabr.	Pretoria.
<i>Lygæus planitiæ</i> , sp. n.	Pretoria.
<i>Lygæus desertus</i> , sp. n.	Pretoria.
<i>Lygæus rivularis</i> , Germ.	Pretoria.
<i>Lygæus campestris</i> , sp. n.	Pretoria.
<i>Lygæus septus</i> , Germ.	Pretoria.
<i>Aspilocoryphus fasciativentris</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
<i>Lygæosoma villosula</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
<i>Transvaalia lugens</i> , gen. et sp. n.	Pretoria.
<i>Nysius novitius</i> , sp. n.	Pretoria.
<i>Pamera proxima</i> , Dall.	Pretoria.
<i>Pachymerus apicalis</i> , Dall.	Pretoria.
<i>Dieuches armipes</i> , Fabr.	Pretoria.
<i>Dieuches patruelis</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.

Fam. PYRRHOCORIDÆ.

Subfam. PYRRHOCORINÆ.

<i>Dermantinus limbifer</i> , Stål.	Zoutpansberg and Pretoria.
<i>Dermantinus lugens</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
<i>Scantius forsteri</i> , Fabr.	Pretoria.

Fam. REDUVIIDÆ.

Subfam. REDUVIINÆ.

<i>Pantoleistes princeps</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
<i>Reduvius erythrocnemis</i> , Germ.	Pretoria.
<i>Reduvius pulvisculatus</i> , sp. n.	Pretoria.
<i>Reduvius sertus</i> , sp. n.	Waterberg and Pretoria.
<i>Reduvius capitalis</i> , sp. n.	Pretoria.
<i>Reduvius rapax</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
<i>Physorhynchus cruz</i> , Thunb.	Pretoria.
<i>Physorhynchus patricius</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.

Subfam. PIRATINÆ.

<i>Pirates lugubris</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
<i>Pirates conspurcatus</i> , sp. n.	Pretoria.

Subfam. ACANTHASPIDINÆ.

<i>Edocla quadrisignata</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
-------------------------------------	-----------

HOMOPTERA.

Fam. CICADIDÆ.

<i>Platyleura divisa</i> , Germ.	Pretoria.
<i>Platyleura punctigera</i> , Walk.	Durban, Natal.
<i>Tibicen carinatus</i> , Thunb.	Pretoria.
<i>Tibicen undulatus</i> , Thunb.	Pretoria.

Fam. CERCOPIDÆ.

Subfam. CERCOPINÆ.

<i>Locris transversa</i> , Thunb.	Durban, Natal.
<i>Locris arithmetica</i> , Walk.	Pretoria.

Subfam. APHROPHORINÆ.

<i>Poophilus actuosus</i> , Stål.	Pretoria.
-----------------------------------	-----------

Notes and Descriptions.

✓ *Cimex figuratus*, Germ., var. (Tab. III. fig. 1.)

Asopus figuratus, Germ. in Silb. Rev. Ent. v. p. 185, no. 132 (1837).

Bright blue, shining, corium paler and more greenish in hue; head with the central lobe obscurely marked with luteous; pronotum with the anterior and lateral margins and some scattered spots on anterior half of disk luteous; corium with base of lateral margin luteous; scutellum with a small central basal spot and the apical margin very narrowly luteous; connexivum luteous, spotted with dark indigo-blue; membrane brassy brown, with its apex hyaline. Body beneath bright shining purplish blue; lateral margins of sternum, a spot on each side of metasternum, rostrum, coxal spots, bases of femora,

apex of spine on anterior femora, a broad central annulation to posterior tibiæ, central transverse fasciæ and marginal spots to abdomen, luteous. Antennæ and apex of rostrum blackish.

Long. 13 millim.

(W. L. D.)

✓ *Holcostethus obscuratus*, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 2.)

Dull obscure castaneous; head, anterior half of pronotum, and basal area of scutellum dull ochraceous; apex of scutellum levigate and pale olivaceous; connexivum luteous, spotted with blackish; membrane black, its apex paler; body beneath and legs very pale olivaceous. Body above thickly, darkly, and coarsely punctate; beneath much more sparsely punctate; femora with two small black spots near apex, and lateral margins of abdomen beneath with a series of small black segmental spots; rostrum just passing posterior coxæ with its apex black. Antennæ pale fuscous, basal joint (excluding apex) luteous; second and third joints subequal in length, or second slightly shorter than the third.

Long. 9 millim.

This species differs from *H. scapularis*, Thunb., by the spotted connexivum, and from *H. apicalis*, Herr.-Sch., it is distinguished by the more elongate body, different colour, &c. (W. L. D.)

✓✓ *Halyomorpha capitata*, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 3.)

Body above ochraceous, thickly and irregularly covered with dark punctures. Head with the eyes fuscous, the ocelli red, and somewhat thickly covered with coarse brown punctures. Pronotum thickly and coarsely punctate, on each side of disk the punctures form obscure oblique fasciæ; lateral margins pale ochraceous and impunctate. Scutellum coarsely punctate, near lateral margins and before apex the punctures are confluent and castaneous, apex obscure pale olivaceous with scattered dark punctures; corium thickly, coarsely, and darkly punctate, castaneous in hue, excepting lateral margins, which are ochraceous; membrane purplish brown, with a submarginal tinge of black; connexivum ochraceous, with a double series of blackish spots at segmental margins. Body beneath and legs ochraceous, apical half of rostrum blackish, some small lateral

sternal spots, smaller scattered spots on disk of abdomen, small stigmatal spots, and a series of marginal spots at segmental incisures black. Antennæ ochraceous, fourth and fifth joints and the apex of third fuscous, bases and apices of fourth and fifth joints ochraceous.

Long. 12-14 millim.

In this species the head is somewhat long and narrow, a character which will alone distinguish it from other species of the genus. (W. L. D.)

✓ *Haljomorpha pretoriæ*, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 4.)

Above dull ochraceous, irregularly shaded with dark punctures; scutellum with the lateral and apical margins distinctly infuscated; corium with the disk more or less castaneous; membrane black, shining; connexivum with fuscous spots at segmental incisures; body beneath, rostrum, and legs ochraceous; rostrum with a central line and apex black; lateral margins of abdomen obscurely infuscated. Antennæ obscure brownish; second and third joints subequal in length and darkest in hue, fourth and fifth joints also subequal in length, fifth joint infuscated at centre.

Long. 12 millim.

(W. L. D.)

✓ *Veterna patula*, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 5.)

Body above ochraceous; basal area of pronotum from between lateral angles and corium (excluding lateral margins) purplish or olivaceous. Head with the eyes fuscous; pronotum with four black spots near anterior margin, the lateral angles black margined with carmine-red; scutellum with some clusters of dark punctures at base, and the same at lateral margins a little before apex, which is pale olivaceous; connexivum spotted with fuscous (sometimes immaculate); membrane black, shining. Body beneath and legs ochraceous, apex of rostrum, apices of pronotal angles, stigmata, and some lateral sternal spots black. Antennæ castaneous, basal joint luteous, fourth and fifth joints infuscated; second joint longest.

Long. 12 millim., exp. pronot. angl. 8. millim.

This species is allied to *V. pugionata*, Stål, by the shape of the

pronotal angles, but is broader and without the white spots at base of scutellum. (W. L. D.)

✓ *Antestia transvaalia*, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 6.)

Above dull ochraceous, somewhat thickly punctured with brown. Head with the margins of the central lobe enclosing two short central lines at base, the inner margins of the eyes and a cluster of punctures near the apex of each lateral lobe, black. Pronotum with the posterior area thickly covered with coarse black punctures and some scattered punctures on anterior area, the punctures form two obscure dark spots on disk; anterior and lateral margins and a central longitudinal discal line luteous and levigate, a black line on lateral margins near the posterior angles. Scutellum thickly covered with black punctures; two large spots at base and the apex luteous and almost impunctate; the black punctures become confluent near base, and form two obscure spots before apex. Corium thickly covered with black punctures, excepting at base of lateral margins and an angulated fascia on disk, both of which are luteous and levigate. Membrane black, its apical margin hyaline; connexivum luteous, spotted with black. Body beneath and legs luteous; abdomen with three basal creamy levigate fasciæ, the second and third interrupted at centre; rostrum with a central line and apex black; margins of abdomen spotted with black. Antennæ mutilated.

Long. 7 millim.

This species is allied to *A. variegata*, Thunb., from which the white levigate fasciæ on the under surface of the abdomen will alone render it very distinct. (W. L. D.)

Plinachtus falcatus, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 8.)

Body above and antennæ reddish ochraceous; head with two curved black lines extending from base to near emergence of antennæ; eyes dark fuscous; pronotum rugulose, lateral margins and apices of spines narrowly black, sub-anterior and sub-lateral margins and the spines (excluding apices) reddish, a central pale levigate line margined with black punctures, and with some scattered, black punctures on basal area; scutellum darkly

punctate, its apex black; corium very darkly punctate, its outer margins luteous and levigate, inwardly edged with black; membrane pale testaceous, exhibiting from beneath a black spot on each side. Body beneath, legs, and rostrum pale reddish ochraceous.

The second joint of the antennæ is longest, and the apical joint is somewhat infuscated.

Long. 11 millim.

This species may be distinguished by the pronotal spines being much less directed forwardly than is usual in the genus, and also by the two black spots seen through the membrane near apex of abdomen.

(W. L. D.)

Lygæus planitiæ, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 7.)

Body above reddish orange, finely pilose; antennæ, eyes, central lobe to head, and a large basal spot at inner margin of eyes, two large wide discal longitudinal fasciæ to pronotum (strongly constricted anteriorly, fused near anterior margin, and connected with lateral margins at base and centre), scutellum excluding apex, apical half of clavus and claval margin, a large discal spot to corium connected with its lateral margin for half its length, membrane excluding lateral and apical margins, rostrum, coxæ, legs, margins and sutures of sternum, and sutural fasciæ to abdomen, black; margins of membrane pale fuscous.

Long. 10 to 12 millim.

(W. L. D.)

Lygæus desertus, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 9.)

Closely allied to *L. planitiæ*, but differing by the following characters: corium with the lateral and apical margins, a broad claval marginal fascia, and a longitudinal fascia extending from the base where it is narrowest, to the centre of the apical margin where it is broadest, black. Membrane pale grey, hyaline, with an irregular reddish spot at the centre of basal margin, and a small obscure fuscous spot at inner apical margin.

Long. 10 millim.

(W. L. D.)

Lygæus campestris, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 10.)

Body above reddish orange; antennæ, eyes, central lobe of head, inner margin of eyes, two irregular longitudinal central fasciæ to pronotum (which become somewhat evanescent posteriorly and are united to lateral margin a little beyond centre), lateral pronotal margins, scutellum excluding apical carina, a small spot near each apical margin of clavus, apical margin, posterior half of sublateral margin, and a spot on disk of corium, subbasal spot to membrane, sternum, legs, and rostrum, black. Membrane pale fuscous, the veins black, and a white spot on each side of the subbasal black spot. Extreme lateral margins of corium ochraceous; sternum with some large greyish-white spots.

Long. 8 millim.

(W. L. D.)

Transvaalia, gen. nov.

Ocelli much nearer to eyes than to each other. Body elongate; head triangular and convex; pronotum excavated anteriorly, its lateral margins and a central longitudinal ridge carinate, basal margin with its apices angularly reflexed backwardly and inwardly. Rostrum with the basal joint extending a little beyond the base of the head. Scutellum triangular, moderately convex, and with a central longitudinal sulcation on basal half. Legs long; body above moderately pilose.

The peculiar structure of the pronotum and scutellum is sufficient to easily distinguish this genus.

(W. L. D.)

Transvaalia lugens, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 12.)

Body above shining luteous; head, antennæ, legs, anterior area of pronotum, basal margin of scutellum, membrane, marginal sutures of pronotum, and apical half of abdomen (excluding segmental margins) black; a large furcate spot to head above and apex of head beneath, a spot at each anterior marginal area of pronotum, and coxal spot carmine-red.

Second joint of the antennæ longest, third and fourth subequal in length.

Long. 12 millim.

(W. L. D.)

Nysius novitius, sp. n. (Tab. III. fig. 11.)

Body above ochraceous; head brownish, with the lateral margins, a central longitudinal fascia with a rounded spot on each side of disk ochraceous, the ochraceous markings margined with black; antennæ luteous, the basal and apical joints infuscated; eyes blackish. Pronotum coarsely covered with brown punctures, the lateral margins luteous and levigate, with a double curved linear mark on disk and a spot near posterior angle black. Scutellum black, with an irregular luteous marginal fascia on each side extending for about half the length from base. Corium with scattered coarse punctures, the lateral margins impunctate, and with three marginal brown spots, one below centre of lateral margin, and one at each apex of apical margin. Membrane pale ochraceous. Legs ochraceous, apices of femora fuscous, coxæ luteous; sternum strongly punctured with brown; abdomen beneath blackish.

Long. 5 millim.

(W. L. D.)

Reduvius pulvisculatus, sp. n. (Tab. II. fig. 3.)

Body above purplish brown, thickly spotted with greyish pile, more thickly on corium than on pronotum. Head, antennæ, rostrum, anterior lobe of pronotum, scutellum, membrane, body beneath, femora, and tarsi black; tibiæ red, their bases and apices black; anterior lobe of pronotum thickly covered with ochraceous pile; head more sparingly pilose; connexivum above and beneath pale stramineous, slightly spotted with brownish at the segmental incisures.

Long. 20 millim.

Allied to *R. albopunctata*, Stål.

(W. L. D.)

Reduvius sertus, sp. n. (Tab. II. fig. 8.)

Head, antennæ, rostrum, scutellum, membrane, body beneath, and legs black; a large quadrate spot on head extending from front of eyes to base of antennæ; pronotum, corium, connexivum above and beneath, coxæ, central area and lateral margins of sternum, and a discal patch to abdomen ochraceous.

Anterior lobe of pronotum irregularly and rugosely wrinkled; scutellum deeply and obliquely striated.

Var. *a*. Scutellum ochraceous.

Long. 17 millim.

(*W. L. D.*)

Reduvius capitalis, sp. n. (Tab. II. fig. 1.)

Black; a large quadrate spot on head extending from front of eyes to base of antennæ, lateral areas of anterior lobe of pronotum, angular areas and basal margin of posterior lobe, scutellum (excluding basal angles), an angulated fascia to corium, connexivum above and beneath, head beneath, coxæ and coxal spots, parts of lateral margins of sternum, and abdomen beneath sanguineous; segmental spots to connexivum and margins of abdominal segments black; anterior femora annulated with sanguineous.

Long. 17 millim.

(*W. L. D.*)

Pirates conspurcatus, sp. n. (Tab. II. fig. 10.)

Head, antennæ, rostrum, pronotum, scutellum, sternum, and legs black; corium and abdomen beneath ochraceous; base and apex of abdomen black; membrane, claval area, and lateral margins of corium fuscous; a black spot near inner angle of corium, a much larger black spot on disk of membrane, and a rectangular black spot on claval area. Abdomen above ochraceous.

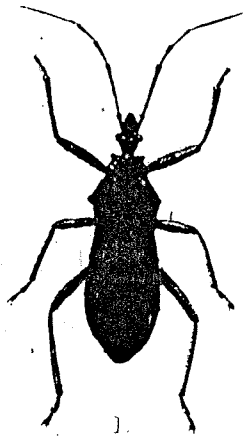
Long. 10 millim.

Allied to *P. balteatus*, Germ.

(*W. L. D.*)

NEUROPTERA.

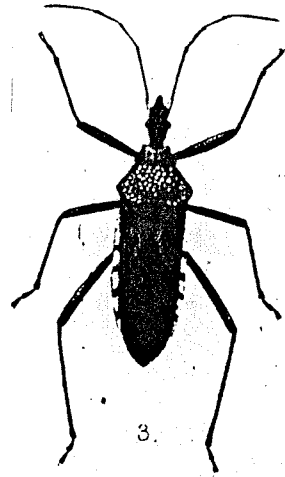
The first signs of returning summer, with warmer nights and mornings, were shown by the appearance of Dragonflies hovering over the few small ponds to be found near Pretoria. The earliest to appear were *Orthetrum fasciculata* and *O. subfasciolata*, *Crocothemis erythræa*, and the gigantic *Anax mauricianus*, all these species being very abundant. *Tramea basilaris* is very rare and I only took or saw one specimen, whose wings were



1.



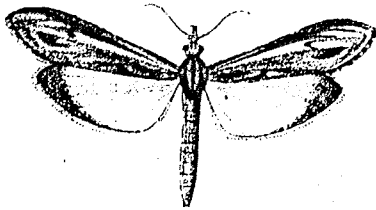
2.



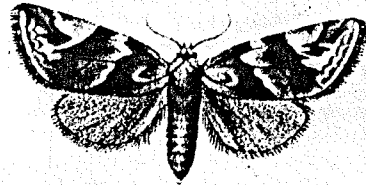
3.



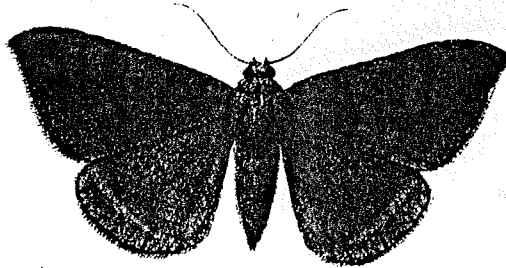
4.



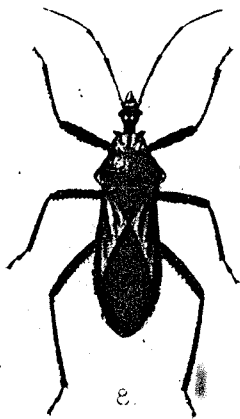
5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



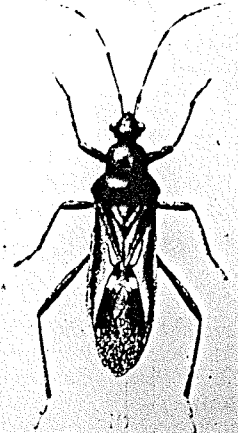
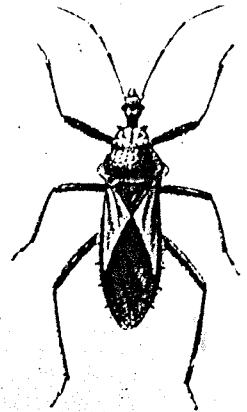
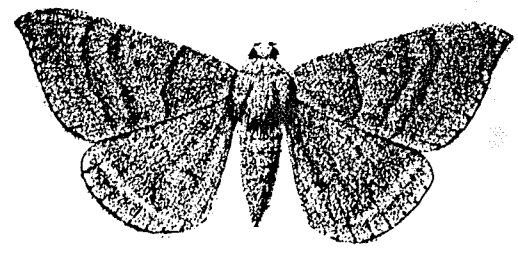
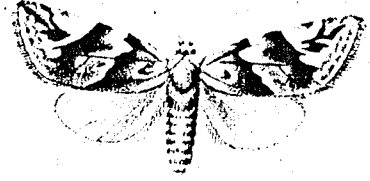
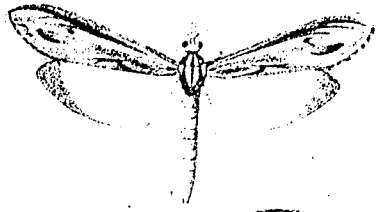
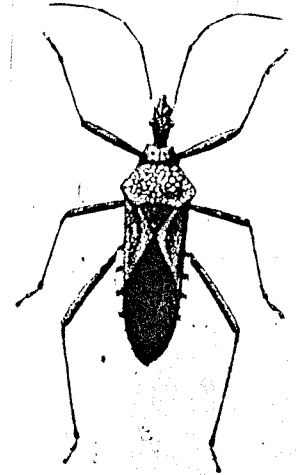
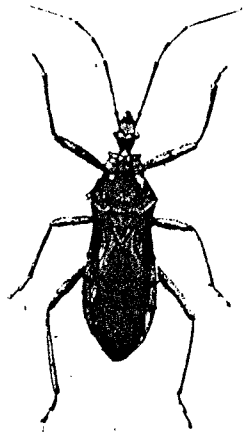
10.

W. Parkiss del.

Mintern Bros. Chromo

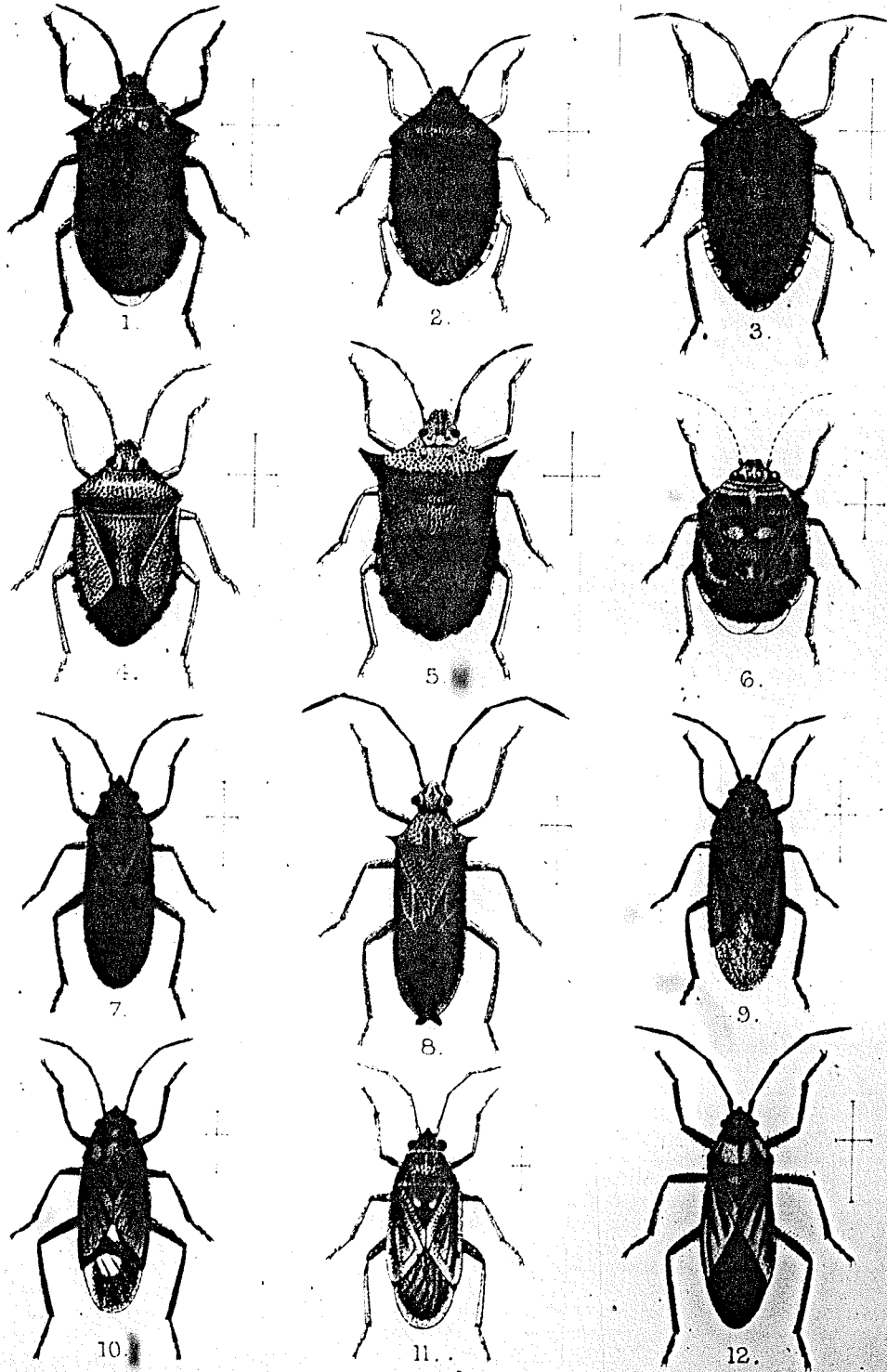
- 1. *Reduvius capitalis*.
- 2. *Epizeuxis æthiops*.
- 3. *Reduvius pulvisculatus*.
- 4. *Lycauges donovani*.
- 5. *Euclasta warreni*.
- 6. *Crothæma decorata*.
- 7. *Ophisma prætorizæ*.
- 8. *Reduvius sertus*.
- 9. *Neurosymploca agria*.
- 10. *Firates conspurcatus*.

R. H. Porter. Publisher, London.



1. *Phyllocolpa*

- 1. *Phyllocolpa*
- 2. *Phyllocolpa*
- 3. *Phyllocolpa*
- 4. *Phyllocolpa*
- 5. *Phyllocolpa*
- 6. *Phyllocolpa*
- 7. *Phyllocolpa*
- 8. *Phyllocolpa*
- 9. *Phyllocolpa*
- 10. *Phyllocolpa*

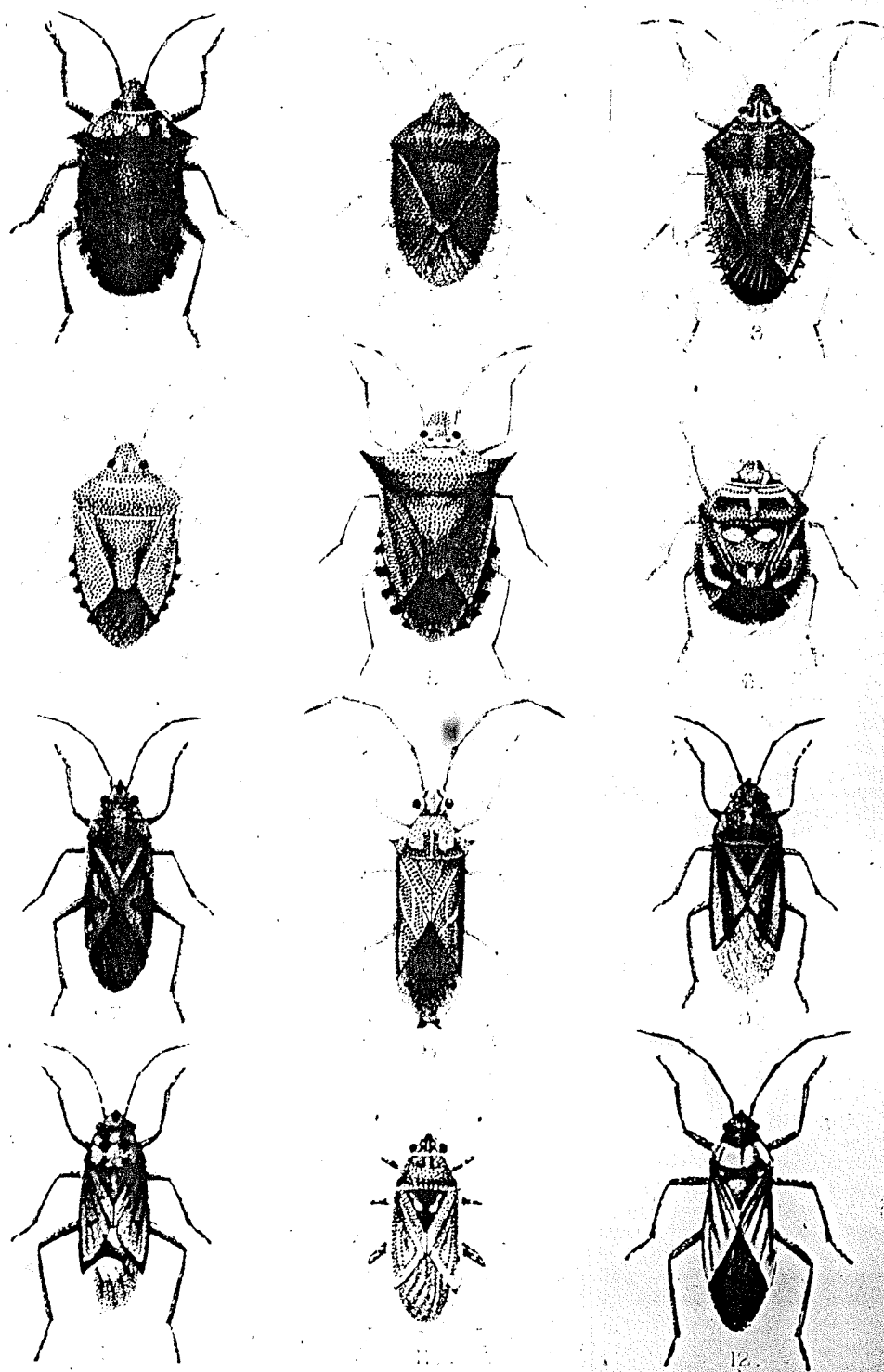


W. Purkiss del.

Mintern Bros. Chromo.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Cimex figuratus</i> , var. | 5. <i>Veterna patula</i> | 9. <i>Lygæus desertus</i> . |
| 2. <i>Holcostethus obscuratus</i> . | 6. <i>Antestia transvaalia</i> . | 10. <i>Lygæus campestris</i> . |
| 3. <i>Halyomorpha capitata</i> . | 7. <i>Lygæus planitiæ</i> . | 11. <i>Nysius novitius</i> . |
| 4. <i>Halyomorpha pretoriæ</i> . | 8. <i>Plinactus falcatus</i> . | 12. <i>Transvaalia lugens</i> . |

R. H. Porter, Publisher, London.



W. H. Burdett del.

Minton Bros. Chicago

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Canax leucostictus</i> | 5. <i>Veterna patula</i> | 9. <i>Lygaeus desertus</i> |
| 2. <i>Helostethus subcylindricus</i> | 6. <i>Aradus transversalis</i> | 10. <i>Lygaeus campestris</i> |
| 3. <i>Thyrenorhina capitata</i> | 7. <i>Lygaeus planitarsis</i> | 11. <i>Lygaeus novitius</i> |
| 4. <i>Halymenura pretiosa</i> | 8. <i>Pinnacanthus incantus</i> | 12. <i>Transvaalia lugens</i> |

R. H. Parter, Publisher, London.