
Read March 1st, 1842.

The last memoir which I had the honour of submitting to the notice of the Linnean Society, related to some insects of Assam; the present communication refers to others from Silhet, a locality south of the former, and for beauty they may justly vie with any which the gorgeous East produces.

It must be remarked of the above-mentioned localities, that both are extratropical, and as they are nearly adjacent, we might naturally anticipate a certain similarity of entomological character. The most remarkable peculiarity, however, is the entire accordance which these extratropical insects evince with those of the torrid zone, a similarity marked not by richness of colouring and metallic splendour only, but also by various typical forms which are regarded as peculiar to the tropics.

From a careful examination of the insects of the Himalaya along with those of our British East Indian Presidencies, and of others from Chusan, lately sent to England by one of the most indefatigable naturalists of the present day, Dr. Cantor, I have no fear in asserting, that uniformity will be found to be one of the leading characteristics of Indian entomology, and that the insects of Assam, Silhet, and other localities, must be regarded as possessing the tropical characters, although the regions themselves are extratropical. The geographical distribution, therefore, proposed by Latreille, graduated by isothermal lines and climatical parallels, is clearly as artificial and illusory as the imaginary lines which are supposed to bound the tropics.

The collection from which the present novelties are described belongs to Frederick John Parry, Esq. of Cheltenham, the possessor of one of the finest cabinets of exotic insects in Great Britain. The insects were obtained by
purchase, and have been forwarded to me for the purpose of describing the novelties; and I may venture to assert, without fear of contradiction, that, when examined, they will be considered a very valuable addition to our acquaintance with oriental entomology. Before entering on the specific descriptions I have one other remark to make. The present collection of insects from Silhet, as well as others from other parts of India, are frequently greatly damaged by the substances used with the intention of preserving them; the collectors, not content with using abundance of arsenical soap, apply also to the insects a varnish (derived probably from the resin called anime), which is apparently painted over them, and to this is sometimes added turpentine, as well as other ingredients of a resinous nature, with which I am unacquainted. Now if spirits of wine are used to clean these insects, a white scurf spreads over the whole surface, and this is too often increased by a renewed application of spirit. The only means used at present have been warm water and brushing them well with a camel's hair brush. I am told, however, that a solution of caoutchouc is more efficacious than anything else in restoring the insects to their original brightness. It ought, however, to be repeated till the insects are thoroughly cleared of the arsenic and other ingredients, used with the intention of preserving them, but which certainly have often a contrary effect, as many insects, which externally appear sound, are internally entirely rotten and soon fall to pieces. For this reason the oriental collections offered for sale in this country are frequently scarcely worth purchasing.

**Lucanidæ.**

**Hexarthrius, Burmeister.**

**Sp. 1. Hex. Parryi. Tab. X. fig. 2.**

Niger, mandibulis exsertis subdenticulatis bidentatis, capite thoraceque scabriusculis, elytris posticè castaneis.

Long. lin. 36; lat. lin. 10.

Statura Luc. Rhinocerotis, Fab., at latior. Antenne articulis quinque ultimis fusco-pubescentibus, sexto nigro valde acuto. Mandibulae arcuate, capite longiores, intus crenatae, bidentatae. Caput utrinque unidentatum, disci medio fortiter impresso. Thorax an-
beautiful Coleopterous Insects from Silhet.

gulis anticis externè obtusis, posticis ante apicem parùm acutis. Elytra humeris su-turâ marginibusque nigris, reliquâ disç parte castaneo insignitâ. Pedes tibiis anticis externè denticulatis, mediis unispinosis, posticis inermibus.

The above insect, which is the largest species of Hexarthrius known, was obtained in Silhet; it is described from the rich oriental cabinet of Frederick Parry, Esq., and is named in honour of that zealous entomologist.

Odontolabis*, Burmeister.

Sp. 2. Odontolabis Cuvera. Tab. X. fig. 3.
Ater, mandibulis valdè exertis denticulatis, elytris pallidè castaneis literâ V nigrâ signatis.

Long. mandibulis inclusis lin. 34; lat. lin. 11.

Caput supernè elevatum, anticè fortiter excavatum. Mandibulae porrectae, capite longiores, arcuate, dentate; dente ad basin acuto, 2do ultra medium longiori, apicibusque sub-furcatis. Elytra flavo-testacea, tenuissimè negro marginata, in discis medio literâ V nigrâ insignita. Pedes anticè tibiis externè spinosis, quatuor posteriores inermes.

Mr. Saunders has figured in the ‘Entomological Transactions’ a Lucanus from India, which he regards as a variety of Luc. bicolor of Fabricius, but which is evidently a distinct species. I suggest, therefore, the name of Saundersii being applied to that of the above-mentioned author, as it was originally described by him: it belongs to the same genus as Odontolabis. Lucanus Bur-meisteri of my cabinet is the type of a genus allied to Odontolabis, and is remarkable for having all its tibiae unarmed.

Sp. 3. Odontolabis Baladeva.
Niger, mandibulis porrectis multidentatis, capite thoraceque utrinque unidentatis.

Long. lin. 26; lat. 10.

Habitat in Silhet.


* From cēvis, dens, and lαbatis, a pair of pincers.

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To the same genus belong *Lucanus Dalmanni* and *Luc. Cumingii* of my cabinet. I am aware also of other species which are wrongly regarded as varieties of the Fabrician *Luc. Alces*.

**DORCAS, MacLeay.**

**Sp. 4. DORCAS WESTERMANNI.**

Niger, mandibulis porrectis multidentatis capite thoraceque parùm brevioribus.

Long. lin. 26\(\frac{1}{2}\); lat. lin. 9.


The above insect, received from Silhet, is named in honour of Westermann, the prince of Danish entomologists.

**Sp. 5. DORCAS DE HAANI.**

Niger, mandibulis porrectis capite parùm longioribus: dente forti ferè trigono ante basin posito: reliquis minoribus.

Long. lin. 22; lat. lin. 7\(\frac{1}{2}\).

*Habitat* in agro Assamensi.


I have described the above species from my own collection: it was presented to me by Lady Jones, and was taken in the Assamese territories. It is here introduced, as it appears to recede from the typical oriental species of *Dorcas*, and is named in honour of Professor De Haan of Leyden, an able oriental entomologist.

**Sp. 6. LUCANUS BRAHMINUS.**

Niger, mandibulis valdè exsertis denticulatis capiti thoracique æqualibus, thorace posticî utrinque dentato, elytris glabris marginatis.

Long. lin. 21\(\frac{1}{2}\); lat. lin. 6\(\frac{1}{2}\).
Habitat in Silhet.

Totum corpus suprà nigrum; clypeo anticè 2-dentato. Mandibulae apicibus acutis, denticulatae, dente majori ad basin armatae aliisque minoribus ante apicem instructae. Thorax angulis anticus ferè rectis, posticè utrinque dentatus. Pedes tibiis anticis multidentatis, quatuor posterioribus unidentatis.

Sp. 7. Lucanus Buddha.

Niger nitidus, mandibulis valdè porrectis capite thoraceque longioribus denticulatis.

Long. lin. 21; lat. lin. 6.

Habitat in Silhet.


Goliathidæ, Lamarck.

Diphyllomorpha, Hope.


Suprà viridis, disco roseo-opalino tincto, femoribus tibiisque virenscentibus flavo-ciliatis.

Long. lin. 10½; lat. lin. 4.

Habitat in montibus Himalayannis.


The above insect is named in honour of G. Mears, Esq., late of the East India Company’s service, and an assiduous collector of Indian entomology.

It will be seen that I regard the present species as the type of a distinct genus closely allied to Rhomborhina. I know of no instance in the Cetoniidæ.
where the antennæ differ so remarkably as in the above insect. The male has the fore tibiae simple, and the long clava of the antennæ; it has also the abdomen deeply impressed with a longitudinal furrow down the middle, which, although a great character in true Cetoniæ, is rare in Rhomborhinae. The male has also the podex larger than the female. Another character of still greater importance, separating it at once from the typical Rhomborhinae, consists in the elongated, serrated, and narrower mesosternum.

Since writing the above, I have received a note from Captain Parry, informing me that the above insect was taken at Darjeling, thirty miles from the mountain of Dhawalaghirî, which is nearly in the centre of Nepaul, in about 85° of east longitude, and in latitude 28½° north. The mountain is 8000 feet above the level of the sea. The appearance, therefore, of tropical forms on mountain ranges of considerable elevation is a fact worthy of record.

Rutelidæ, Latreille.

Mimela, Kirby.


Viridis, thoracis lateribis luteolis, elytrorum marginibus elevatis pallidè virescentibus, corpore infrà roseo-cupreo, pectore capillis longis flavescentibus obsito.

Long. lin. 9½; lat. lin. 4½.

Habitat in montibus Himalayanis.


The above insect evidently belongs to Mimela, as the presence of a prosternum attests; it is armed at the mesosternum with a small spine, like the barb of a spear. It is remarkable also by the leaflets of the antennæ being more fully developed than in the type of Mimela. As the species of this oriental genus are very numerous, it may be well to subdivide them: I suggest, therefore, the adoption of the term Micraspis, to include those species of Mimela which possess a prosternum as well as an armed mesosternum.
beautiful Coleopterous Insects from Silhet.

BUPRESTIDÆ, Fab.

CHRYSOCHROA, Delaporte.

Sp. 10. CHRYSOCHROA EDWARDSII. Tab. X. fig. 4.

Viridi-aurata, thorace cupreo-purpurco, elytris fasciâ irregulari maculâ flavâ insignitis, corpore subtûs roseo-cupreo, pedibus concoloribus.

Long. lin. 27; lat. lin. 8½.


The nearest species of my acquaintance allied to CHRYSOCHROA EDWARDSII is a beautiful species named Perottetii by Mons. Guérin. The superb Buprestis just described is named in honour of Milne Edwards, Professor of Natural History in Paris, who has lately been elected to the Entomological Chair formerly held by Audouin, the successor of Latreille.

LONGICORNES.

MONOHAMMUS, Megerle.

Sp. 11. MONOHAMMUS SULPHURIFER, Hope. Tab. X. fig. 5.

Corpore toto suprà et infrà flavo-sulphureo, antennis pedibusque nigro cine-reoque variegatis.

Long. lin. 13; lat. lin. 4½.

Caput fronte declivi flavo; lineâ tenui longitudinali fortiter incisâ. Thorax utrinque spinis nigrificantibus armatus. Elytra ad apicem rotundata, capillis sulphureis obsita, macula rotundată parvâ brunneâ (in singulo) ad disci medium insignita. Pedes nigricantes; tarsi suprà fusco-pilosis.

The above insect is from Silhet. In my former memoir on the 'Insects of Assam,' two other species of this genus will be found described; and on reference to my collection I find that I possess five other Indian species, which are
provisionally named *sulphureus, plumbeus, argillaceus, cervinus,* and *miniatus.* The three first are from Assam, the next is from the Tenasserim coast, and the last from Japan. The oriental *Monohammi* evidently belong to a peculiar section, and should be separated from the European species and formed into subgenera.

**Purpuricenus.**


Violaceus, elytris rubro-marginatis maculâ subquadratâ in medio disco insignitis, pedibus concoloribus.

Long. lin. 15; lat. lin. 4.

*Habitat* in Silhet.


The genus *Purpuricenus* has not yet, I believe, been noticed as occurring in the East Indies. The above insect deviates from the typical species; it may remain, however, for the present arranged under that genus, until the species are more thoroughly investigated. One from Gozo, near Bombay, in my collection is named after Colonel Sykes, and a second, from Japan, is called *Titsingii* by De Haan. It is probable also that *Cerambyx sanguinolentus* of Olivier belongs to the same genus.

**Zonopterus*, Hope, n. g.

*Caput* mandibulis arcuatis, fronte declivi, cornu brevi utrinque ad basin antennarum. *Antenne* e medio oculorum surgentes, 11-articulæ, articulo basali apice crassiori, 2do minimo, 3to longissimo, 4to fere dimidio minori, 6 sequentibus fere aequalibus, ultimo longiori acuto. *Thorax* depressus, capite duplo longior. *Elytra* thorace triplò longiora, parallela, apicibus rotundatis. *Pedes* femoribus 4 anterioribus incrassatis, posticis duplò majoribus subcompressis; *tibie* posticæ subincurvae.

* From ζώνη a belt, and πτερόν a wing, or belted winged beetle, a characteristic of the majority of the species.
Sp. 13. Zonopterus flavitarsis. Tab. X. fig. 7.
Niger, antennis bicoloribus, thorace nigro-tomentoso, elybris flavo bifasciatis, femoribus tibiisque atris; tarsis flavis.
Long. lin. 15; lat. lin. 4.

The above insect appears to be the type of a new genus, and also to be, as far as is known at present, peculiar to the East Indies. The nearest approximation, perhaps, is the Saperda clavicornis of Fabricius; it cannot, however, be arranged with any of the African longicorn beetles. A somewhat similar form (allied to the above) has lately been brought to this country from Manilla by Mr. Cuming, and no doubt they may eventually form genera of one and the same family. As the figure is ably delineated by Mr. Westwood, the foregoing short Latin characters may be regarded as sufficient to characterise the form, although the manducatory organs remain undescribed. Imperfect as they are, and clothed with the preservatives used, it is useless to attempt their examination, as the specimen, which is unique, would probably be destroyed.

COLOBOTHEA, Serville.

Rubro-picea, antennis concoloribus, elybris nigris angustis maculis flavo-ochraceis aspersis.
Long. lin. 15; lat. lin. 4.

The above insect, remarkable for its size, inhabits Silhet. It diverges from
the true *Colobothea*, which inhabits the New World: the Asiatic species belong to a distinct genus, and ought to be separated.

*SAGRIDE., Leach.*

**Sp. 15. SAGRA CARBUNCULUS. Tab. X. fig. 9.**

Cyanea, elytris igne auroque micantibus, pedibus posticis incrassatis; tibiis incurvis.

Long. 1. v. 4½.

*Caput, o·tenae, thorax, corpus totum infrà pedesque cyanei. Thorax ferè quadratus, anticè ante oculos contractus, punctulatus. Elytra carbunculosa, igne auroque micantia, creberrime punctulata. Pedes femoribus 4 anterioribus parùm incrassatis, tibiis subincurvis; posticis valdè incrassatis subunidentatis, tibiis arcuatis, tarsiis flavo-spongiosis.*

The *Chrysidae*, or gold wasps of the *Hymenoptera*, have not unaptly been compared to the humming-birds of ornithologists; and the magnificent oriental beetles of the genus *Sagra* may justly be contrasted with the precious stones of the East, with the ruby, the sapphire and the emerald. As the above insect resembles a carbuncle, it is named accordingly.

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**EXPLANATION OF TAB. X.**

*Fig. 1. Diphyllonomorpha Mearsii.*

2. *Hexarthrius Parryi.*

3. *Odontolabis Cuvera.*

4. *Chrysochroa Edvardsii.*

5. *Monohammus sulphurifer.*


7. *Zonopterus flavitarsis.*

8. *Colobothea rubricollis.*
