

XLII.—List of Coleoptera received from Old Calabar, on the West Coast of Africa. By ANDREW MURRAY, F.L.S.

[Continued from p. 176.]

Lamiidæ.

APOMEMPSIS, Pasc. Journ. Ent. ii. p. 278.

Apomempsis bufo. Pl. III. fig. 11.

Phrissoma bufo, Chevr. Rev. et Mag. d. Zool. 1855, p. 186.

Alatus, bigibbosus, remote et fortiter punctatus et obscurus; capite antice truncato et grosse punctato, declivi in vertice et impunctato, in longitudinem anguste sulcato, inter antennis profunde emarginato, clypeo labioque fulvo-setosis; mandibulis atris; oculis parvis, bifidis; antennis undecim articulis, tertio quartoque longissimis; thorace elongato, antice posticeque recto, medio gibboso, nigricante et binodoso, lateribus breviter unispinoso supra et ultra medium; scutello lato, triangulari; elytris basi depressis (bispinosis), subito dorso gibbosis cum seriebus duabus tuberculorum, ad marginem obtuse serratis; abdomine quinque segmentis; femoribus tibiisque versus medium nigro annulatis, tibiis in apice extus subemarginatis, fulvo pilosis.

Long. 5 lin., lat. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Winged, bigibbous, remotely and coarsely punctured, and obscure. Head deeply emarginate between the antennæ, narrowly longitudinally sulcate. Eyes small and bifid. Antennæ with eleven articles, third and fourth very long, the rest to the apex small. Thorax gibbous in the middle, blackish and binodose, with the sides unispinose above and beyond the middle. Scutellum broadly triangular. Elytra depressed at the base (bispinose), abruptly gibbous on the back, with two rows of tubercles, obtusely serrate on the margin. Abdomen with five segments. Thighs and tibiæ annulated with black near the middle; tibiæ fulvo-pilose and subemarginate on the outer side at the apex.

Removed from the genus *Phrissoma*, by Mr. Pascoe, into a new genus, *Apomempsis*, established by him to receive it. This is adopted by Prof. Lacordaire, and the genus ranked by him among the *Parmenidæ*. Mr. Pascoe may be right in separating it from *Phrissoma*, although it seems to me that it would have been better to have widened the diagnosis of that genus to receive or retain it; that, however, is not of much consequence: but it seems to me that it is both in opposition to its natural affinities and its geographical distribution to remove it into the *Parmenidæ*. There is no other of

the *Parmenidæ* from Africa except a single species at the Cape; and indeed the whole of the true *Parmenidæ* are of the element I have elsewhere called microtypal, of which the European is the type, and which are dispersed over Europe, North America, California, Chili, New Zealand, Australia, and neighbouring lands, to which they could obtain access. But West Africa is not of them.

I place it alongside *Phrissoma*, a form peculiar to Africa, with which it seems to have most natural affinity.

Rare.

VELLEDA, J. Thoms.

Velleda callizona. Pl. III. fig. 12.

Parmena callizona, Chevr. Rev. et Mag. d. Zool. 1855, p. 186.

Velleda murinum, J. Thoms. Arch. Ent. ii. 189 (1858).

Alata, impunctata, plumbea; capite antice truncato, angustissime sulcato, inter antennis angulose emarginato; palpis rufo-piceis; antennis undecim articulis, tertio longissimo, primo et quarto subæqualibus, ultimis brevibus; thorace cylindrico, antice posticeque recto ibique prope arcte bistricto, lateribus acutissime spinoso; scutello albo; elytris ad apicem sensim latioribus et dorso convexis, breviter truncatis, apice extusque obtuse unidentatis, punctato-striatis, cinereo indutis cum fasciis duabus atro-brunneis, duabus albis; tibiis quatuor posticis in summo extus subampliatis, pallide setosis.

Long. 5 lin., lat. 2 lin.

Winged, impunctate, lead-coloured. Head truncate in front, very narrowly sulcate, angularly emarginate between the antennæ. Palpi rufo-piceous. Antennæ with eleven articles, the third the longest, the first and fourth subequal, the last short. Thorax somewhat cylindrical, straight both in front and behind, and twice almost narrowly constricted, the sides very sharply spined. Scutellum white. Elytra gradually widened towards the apex, and convex on the back, shortly truncate at the apex, and externally with an obtuse tooth, punctate-striate, cinereous, with two blackish-brown bands and two white ones. The four posterior tibiæ slightly dilated on the outer side.

Rare.

ACMOCERA.

Acmocera compressa, Fab. Syst. El.

Acmocera subundata, Chevr. Rev. et Mag. d. Zool. 1857, p. 107.

M. Chevrolat described my specimens of this insect as di-

distinct from the *A. compressa*, Fab., from Guinea; and the distinctions that he pointed out were—that the colour was more obscure, and especially that the anterior thighs had not the spined keel on their upperside, which is a remarkable character in that species. A larger series of specimens, received since I supplied him, has enabled me to see that neither of these characters is specific. The colour is somewhat variable, and one or two individuals have the ground-colour bluish grey instead of fawn-colour as it usually is both in the Old-Calabar specimens and in those from Guinea; and although in the majority of specimens there is no superior spine on the anterior thighs, there is considerable difference in their degree of development: in one specimen the spine is as fully developed as in any of the typical examples of *A. compressa*, with which in other respects it wholly agrees, and, but for this spine, is undistinguishable from the other specimens from Old Calabar. The femoral spine may be a sexual character, but it seems to me to be rather an accident of growth. If sexual, it would not be universal in Guinea and only rarely present in Old Calabar.

The head is fawn-coloured, black and smooth behind each eye, angularly hollowed between the antennæ, deeply longitudinally grooved; it is vertical, and the mandibles are broad, flat, black, and covered with longitudinal wrinkles at their base, smooth and sharp at the point. Palpi long and black. Labrum large, rounded, and covered with a thick greyish pubescence. Clypeus cut straight. Eyes black, rounded below, feebly emarginate in front at the upper part. Antennæ shorter than the body, black, ringed with ash-colour; the first article is tumid and scabrous on the outside, the third is twice the length of the fifth, and the last article is terminated with a claw. Thorax transverse, straight, grooved near the anterior and posterior margins, ash-coloured and depressed in the form of a sort of cross on the back, lateral spine tolerably sharp. Scutellum large, short, semirounded, fawn-coloured. Elytra short, deep, convex, broader than the head and the thorax, rectangular at the base and to the outside of the shoulder, rounded at the apex to the suture, which terminates in a right angle and rises until near the middle; the shoulder has a triangular yellow patch; and each elytron has, behind the middle, two flexuous whitish bands, which are not well defined; there are also indistinct longitudinal ridges with an indistinct wrinkled punctation. Legs moderate; thighs suddenly swollen, in some instances the anterior thighs rising continuously into a prominent flat triangular spine; tibiæ arched near the knees, keeled longitudinally below, blackish,

ash-coloured in the middle; tarsi grey; claws simple, robust, black. It is about 6 or 7 lines in length and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth.

It seems to me that the proper place for this species is among the Phrissomidæ, and next to *Velleda*, to which it has much general resemblance.

BATOCERA, Cast.

Batocera Wyliei, Chevr.

Rev. et Mag. d. Zool. Feb. 1858, p. 54.

Batocera Albertiana, J. Thoms. Archiv. Entom. ii. 457 (1858).

Fusca; capite impunctato, anguste sulcato; antennis infra breviter spinosis, cinereis, sed ad basin infuscatis; thorace transversim sinuoseque decies sulcato, spina laterali valida; elytris convexis, parallelis, a basi usque medium versus nigro tuberculatis, maculis irregularibus plurimis cervinis, media majore, spina humerali et suturali aciculatis, limbo marginali nigricante; pedibus corporeque infra (cum vitta laterali leucophæa) fusco-plumbeis.

Long. 24 lin., lat. 9 lin.

With the perfect facies and characters of the genus. The most striking differences that on the most superficial view present themselves from *B. rubus* are the greater length, especially of the elytra, and comparative narrowness and greater roughness and coarseness of texture or surface. Ashy brown, more or less obscure. Head impunctate, vertical in front, narrowly channelled in the middle. Mandibles and eyes black. Labrum narrow, transverse, yellowish. Antennæ of the length of the body, punctate, flattened above, and ash-coloured; first article obscure, strong, swollen at the top, with an oblique cicatrice and tubercular asperities on its outer side; second article very short; third very long and, as well as the fourth to the eighth inclusive, armed below with small sharp spines, which diminish both in number and length towards the latter. Thorax a little narrower than long, straight and rounded cylindrically in front, deeply bisinuate behind, obscure on the sides, with about a dozen transverse wrinkles, most of them sinuous, the three next the base alone straight; lateral spine very robust, sharp, blackish, and marked with a deep impression at the base. Scutellum large, subconical, although rounded. Elytra elongate, narrow, parallel, convex, bearing small, black, flattened, smooth tubercles from the base to beyond the middle; these become smaller and more numerous as they recede from the base: there is a large irregular patch of yellowish ash-colour about the middle; other smaller spots of

the same colour are dispersed here and there to the apex; the shoulder is raised, and bears a spine; the apex of the suture is also spined and sinuate; the margin is feebly raised and blackish. Legs and body below obscure lead-coloured; sides of the breast and abdomen yellowish; posterior margins of the abdominal segments fringed with yellow hairs, the last segment emarginate at the apex.

This species was described and published (*loc. cit.*) by M. Chevrolat in Feb. 1858, and again, in the same year, in the 'Archives Entom.,' by M. James Thomson, under the name of *B. Albertiana*. That work appeared in numbers; and as it does not occur until p. 457, there is little doubt that it must have been in some part of the year subsequent to February. M. Chevrolat's name therefore is entitled to the precedence.

It was named by M. Chevrolat, at my suggestion, in honour of Mr. Wylie, one of the Old-Calabar missionaries, to whose assistance I was very particularly indebted. He returned to this country only to die—another of the valuable lives which have fallen before that baleful climate.

The genus *Batocera* is an Indian form. The type *B. rubus* is found almost all over India and the Indo-Malayan district; and numerous other species have been found in the Malayan and New-Guinea district, and in China. Its appearance in Africa is to be explained by the former union of Africa and India, and the common origin of a large number of their inhabitants.

PHRYNETA, Cast. Suites à Buff. Ins. 474.

1. *Phrynetia brunnicornis*, Guér. Règn. An. Ins. 239.

Phrynetia bisignata, Dej.

Dejean's name is much the more characteristic, the most striking feature in the species being the possession of a dark brownish-black patch on the middle of the outer side of each elytron, similar in shape and hue to that in *Monohammus lateralis* from Java.

This species is known from Angola. I have received one specimen from Old Calabar.

2. *Phrynetia obscura*, Oliv. Ent.

Lamia spinator, Fab. Syst. El.

Phrynetia rustica, Dej. Cat. ed. 3. p. 368.

Not very rare.

3. *Phrynetia luctuosa*.

Affinis *Ph. obscura*, colore saturatiore, et elytris cum maculis transversis fere in fasciis convexis dignoscitur.

Long. 10 lin., lat. $3\frac{1}{2}$ –4 lin.

Very like *P. obscura*; but the colour of the pubescence is bluish grey instead of ash-grey, and the black markings on the elytra are more distinctly in bands—the second band behind the middle being the longest, but reaching neither to the suture nor the external margin, waved and broadest next the suture; the other marks only a little longer than in *P. obscura*. The thorax has the raised parts more distinct and flat on their surface.

Not frequent.

PHRYSTOLA*, nov. gen. vel subgen.

The species on which I have founded this genus or subgenus is closely allied to *Phrynetta* and *Pachystola*. M. Chevrolat described it as a *Phrynetta*; but the facies is not that of *Phrynetta*, being less robust and more elongate. It is nearer the form of *Pachystola*, but more convex on the back (*Pachystola* has the back somewhat depressed). The antennæ in both *Phrynetta* and *Pachystola* are short, rarely exceeding the body in length. In this insect they are longer than it, and, what is of more importance, they have not the wire-like uniform thickness of *Pachystola* nor the flatter thickness of *Phrynetta*. They are, like the antennæ in *Prosopocera*, rather fine, especially towards the apex, and each article defined by being a little thicker at the apex; the first article, however, is, like that of *Phrynetta*, rounded in at the apex, and with scarcely any cicatrice. The head is hollowed between the antennæ, and raised on each side at their base. The thorax is more elongate than them; and although it has elevations, they are on a different pattern, viz. a central dorsal, elongated raised space being the most notable point. Abdomen with five segments, first and fifth very broad, intermediate equal. Tubercle of the sternum smaller than in most of the species of *Phrynetta* and *Pachystola*. In other respects it corresponds with *Phrynetta*.

Phrystola cæca.

Phrynetta cæca, Chevr. Rev. et Mag. d. Zool. 1857, p. 75.

Cinerea, obscura, nigro signata; capite lato, antice recte truncato, sulco longitudinali angusto; mandibulis oculisque (postice cinereo marginatis) nigris; antennis gracilioribus, corpore vix longioribus, infra parce pilosis, nigricantibus; thorace cinereo, in medio et lateribus nigricante, antice recto, basi profunde bisinuato, anguste trisulcato, in medio dorso tuberculum oblongum antice trinodosum et longitudine

* Name compounded of *Phrynetta* and *Pachystola*, in allusion to its partaking of the characters of both.

sulcatum emittente; spina laterali erecta, valida, acuta, antice basi tuberculata posticeque profunde constricta et in latitudinem sulcata; scutello fere semiotundato, cinereo, nigroque lateribus; elytris cinereis, thorace multo latioribus, basi sinuosis, in humero parum scabrosis et foveolato-tuberculatis, macula humerali magna trianguliformi, macula communi rotundata infra scutellum, vitta obliqua e margine ad suturam ducta (puncto ocellari griseo signata pone suturam) notulisque duabus transverse positis ante apicem nigris; pectore maculis duabus lateralibus albidis; abdomine lineis tribus obsolete nigris.

Long. 10-13 lin., lat. 4 lin.

Obscure cinereous. Thorax with the middle and the sides blackish. Elytra with the following blackish markings:— (1) a rounded patch, common to both, behind the scutellum; (2) a large triangular humeral patch; (3) an oblique band, which starts from the margin at the place where the posterior thighs show themselves, and proceeds towards the suture, which it does not reach; at the apex of the band there is an ash-coloured oculiform spot; (4) lastly, two small marks (the exterior of which is smallest) placed transversely before the apex. Head broad, cut straight in front, angularly emarginate between the antennæ, narrowly grooved. Mandibles and eyes black. Antennæ blackish, about the length of the body. Thorax a little longer than broad, furnished on the disk with an oblong tubercle, longitudinally grooved, and with three less prominent elevations in front. Towards the side, on the same level, is another rounded tubercle resting on the lateral spine (which is robust, raised, very sharp, and transversely grooved), and three transverse grooves, of which two are along the base; that in front does not exist except below and on the sides. Scutellum ash-coloured, black on the sides. Elytra sinuous, projecting and rounded at the base and exterior of the shoulder, which bears a few large reticulated punctures, denticulated and slightly tuberculate on the sides, convex, a little narrowed towards the apex, and each regularly rounded at the apex. Legs unarmed, tolerably strong and thick, of an obscure grey, shaded with black; thighs grooved longitudinally below; tibiæ widened on the external side before the middle; tarsi with the first and second articles broadly and shortly triangular, third broadly bilobed; claws robust, simple. Body below of an obscure ash-colour; breast with two lateral white patches. Abdomen with three obsolete black lines.

Rare.

[To be continued.]