XI.—*Description of a new Species of Longicorn Beetle.*

By J. O. Westwood, M.A., F.L.S., &c.

In the present state of entomological science, the publication of technical descriptions of isolated species of insects has become in the highest degree inconvenient, not only to the student, whose time is greatly absorbed by the necessity to hunt out such descriptions in the many channels of communication now open for their reception, but also to the authors thereof, as, in many instances, such descriptions are overlooked, and become dead letters in the science. No greater benefit, therefore, could be afforded to both these classes than were the editors of scientific periodicals and the councils of the different publishing societies to refuse publication to such descriptions. At the same time it is equally evident that the descriptions of isolated species may be made the vehicles of the most important scientific researches: look, for instance, at the memoirs of Léon Dufour, in which so many detached species are made the objects of the most valuable anatomical and physiological observations; or take as an example many of Mr. Kirby's descriptions of isolated species, each of which was made the centre of inquiries as to the natural relations and systematic position of the group to which the species is referable.

The great facilities, indeed, afforded at the present day to the authors of such descriptions for their publication in the many periodicals devoted either to zoology in general or to entomology in particular have become the bane of the science. The editors of these publications in too many instances are only too glad to accept any kind of descriptions to fill their pages, and hence they too frequently omit to exercise the power which their position invests them with, but of which science at the same time imposes upon them the stern use. It is, therefore, with much pleasure that I have learned that the editor of this Journal has come to the determination of refusing admission to descriptions unaccompanied by critical remarks as to the relationship of the genera and species intended for publication; and I trust that such a decision, together with the strong opinion on the subject which has been expressed in so many quarters, may have the effect of putting a stop to that torrent of ill-digested, ill-described species which it is as difficult in many instances to determine as to be satisfied with even when determined.

England indeed has, with a few bright exceptions, been peculiarly unfortunate in her entomological descriptive works. Marsham's 'Coleoptera Britannica' and Haworth's 'Lepidoptera Britannica'

were great failures, chiefly owing to the fact that their authors paid too little attention to minute structural characters; whilst the great work of Stephens could hardly be expected to be more fortunate when we bear in mind the peculiar nature of the gigantic task which the author had imposed upon himself. On the other hand, the 'Monographia Apum Angliæ' will be a text-book so long as entomological literature exists,—first, because the author had concentrated his energies on a group of moderate extent; and secondly, because his peculiar *modus operandi* had led him to seize and dwell upon minute structural characters as the foundation of his system. How far the literature of our own day well deserves the censure or the praise which we have learned to allot to these different works will perhaps require another half century to determine, although the voice of the critic even now demands its absolute extermination. To avoid such a result, it behoves every one who will attempt the description of species to do so with a view to benefit science, the advancement of which must inevitably be retarded by the continued heaping up of crude technicalities which can only be likened to so much rubbish thrown upon a highway, of no use till the hammer of the critical road-maker has broken it to pieces and rendered it available for scientific use, or an encumbrance to be thrown aside for its worthlessness.

These observations may seem ill-placed as the preface to the description of a single new species of Longicorn Beetle; but, as stated above, the description of an isolated species may be so treated as materially to serve the cause of science by the investigation of the affinities of the group to which it belongs; and it is in this point of view that I venture to offer such a description to the subscribers this work.

In every group of natural objects, especially if of large extent, there are some individuals which are more especially typical or characteristic of the group; and in a natural classification such individuals find their place at the greatest distance from the members of neighbouring allied groups. The type species of a family must always be looked for, therefore, if the classification be natural, in the centre of the group, whilst the species which, from their greater similarity to the neighbouring tribes, are most aberrant from the family type, are to be found on its outskirts.

In the classification of the Longicorn Coleoptera in the various works of Latreille we find the genus *Spondylis* placed at the head of the Prionidæ, evidently from its relationship to the genera *Parandra* and *Passandra*. Serville (Ann. Soc. Ent. France, i. p. 121) indeed adopts the same position, forming, however, *Spondylis* (with *Can-*

tharocnemis) into a subtribe, but with a remark that they "ne me paraissent pas bien évidemment être à leur véritable place."

During the thirty years which have elapsed since the publication of Serville's classification, other new genera have been established, more or less nearly allied to *Spondylis*, namely, *Hypocephalus*, *Torneutes* (Reiche, Trans. Ent. Lond. 1837, p. 9), *Erichsonia* (Westw. ibid. v. p. 210), *Thaumasus* (Reiche, Ann. Soc. Ent. France, 1853, p. 419), *Scaphinus* (Leconte, Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, xiii. p. 100), *Anoploderma* (Guérin, Revue Zool. 1840, p. 278), *Sypilus* (Guérin, ibid. p. 276), and *Mysteria* (Thomson, Essai d'une Classe des Cérambycides, p. 270). The knowledge of these genera, which comprise some of the most remarkable forms amongst Coleopterous insects, has appeared to necessitate a considerable modification in respect to the position of *Spondylis* as the type of a group in which they seem naturally to find a place, and amongst which, notwithstanding all the arguments of Mr. Thomson (*op. cit.* p. 262), I think *Hypocephalus* ought to be ranged. We accordingly find that Mr. J. L. Leconte, in his 'Attempt to classify the Longicorn Coleoptera of North America,' has removed the *Spondylitæ* from the Prionidæ, and placed them as one of the three subfamilies of a group composed of the *Lepturitæ*, *Cerambycidæ*, and *Spondylitæ*, conjointly equivalent in value to each of the *Prionitæ* and *Lamiitæ*, making *Asemum* and *Criocephalus* the connecting links between *Callidium* and *Spondylis*, whilst Mr. Thomson, in the work above alluded to, has cut up the *Spondylitæ* into five minor groups,—1. *Spondylitæ veræ*, 2. *Torneutitæ*, 3. *Erichsonitæ*, 4. *Cantharocnemitæ*, and 5. *Anoplodermitæ*, considering the margination of the sides of the prothorax as of primary importance (see pp. xv. and 129). The existence of this character, however, which occurs so generally amongst the Prionidæ alone, in *Erichsonia*, *Sypilus*, *Cantharocnemis*, and *Anoploderma* is, in my opinion, more confirmatory of the relation of these insects with the Prionidæ than with the Cerambycidæ, to which may be added the fact that the want of lobation in the third joint of the tarsi, which is so striking a character in *Anoploderma*, *Sypilus*, and the new genus described in this paper, exactly accords with its condition in *Acanthinodera Cumingii*, whilst the dilated and dentated anterior tibiæ of *Cantharocnemis* are found also in the *Prionus pilosicollis*, Hope, from Australasia.

It therefore cannot, I think, be doubted that the relationship of these insects is as strong towards the typical Prionidæ as it is to the Cerambycidæ; whether, indeed, their general aberration from the Longicorn type will not sanction their location at the borders of the

great group, rather than in the position assigned to them by Leconte and Thomson, will depend upon a general arrangement of the Pseudotetramerous insects, and must doubtless be influenced by the characters of the preparatory state of the different groups, especially such as form the connecting links between the different families.

Migdolus*, n. g.

Genus novum, *Sypilo* proximum, differt clypeo transverso, mandibulis intus 1-dentatis, et antennis subbrevibus.

Corpus oblongum, subparallelum, subcylindricum. *Caput* subdeclive, mediocre; *clypeus* transversus, brevis, fere recte truncatus. *Labrum* transversum, ciliatum. *Mandibulæ* deflexæ, falciformes, apice acuto, intus prope medium dente parvo conico armatæ. *Maxillæ* parvæ, ore clauso omnino obtectæ, transverse incidentes. *Palpi maxillares* sublongi, 4-articulati, simplices, articulis longitudine fere æqualibus, ultimo articulo truncato. *Mentum* breve, transversum, angulis lateralibus rotundatis. *Labium* haud porrectum, mento absconditum. *Palpi labiales* fere longitudine maxillaribus æquales, graciles, articulo 3tio reliquis multo breviore elongato-ovali. *Antennæ* dimidio corporis vix longiores, 11-articulatæ, articulo 2ndo minuto, 3tio vix 4tum longitudine excedente, hoc et reliquis ad angulum internum paulo acute productis.

Prothorax capite major et latior, lateribus rotundatis marginatis convexus. *Prosternum* parum elevatum, postice truncatum, ultra coxas anticas haud productum. *Mesosternum* simplex, angustum, impressione media in parte antica notatum. *Pedes* mediocres, tibiis omnibus ad apicem externum in spinam productis, apice truncato denticulato; *tarsi* articulis tribus basalibus subtus longe setosis, 2ndo et 3tio triangularibus haud bilobatis, 4to distincto nodiformi. *Elytra* oblonga, parallela, apice rotundata.

Species unica Brasiliensis.

Migdolus Fryanus, n. sp.

M. niger, nitidus, piceo parum tinctus punctatissimus; capite in medio inter oculos subimpresso; pronoto punctis 4 discoidalibus; elytris punctato-granulosis, punctis rivulosis; corpore infra nitido, punctato, luteo setoso, lateribus metasterni valde setosis.

Long. corp. lin. 14, cap. lin. $1\frac{2}{3}$, proth. lin. 4, elytr. lin. $8\frac{1}{2}$.

Habitat in Brasilia prope Rio Janeiro (*D. Fry*).

Ex individuo unico (fœmineo?) descriptum.

Plate VII. fig. 1. Migdolus Fryanus, of the natural size.

1 *a*. The clypeus and mandibles; 1 *b*. The mentum and palpi *in situ*; 1 *c*. Prosternum; 1 *d*. Same, with the anterior coxa seen sideways; 1 *e*. Mesosternum impressed in front; 1 *f*. Apex of tibia and tarsus; 1 *g*. Antenna.

* Migdol, locus prope terminos Egypti ad mare rubrum.

In illustration of this new genus, I have thought it would be interesting to add figures of three of the allied genera above commented upon, of which no satisfactory representations have hitherto appeared. Figures of *Torneutes* and *Erichsonia* will be found in the 'Transactions of the Entomological Society' above referred to; of *Thaumasus*, in the French 'Annales;' of *Hypocephalus*, in my 'Arcana Entomologica,'—*Scaphinus* and *Mysteria* being still unrepresented.

Plate VII. fig. 2. Sypilus d'Orbignii, Guérin, Rev. Zool. p. 276; Icon. Règne An., texte; Blanchard in Voy. d'Orbigny, Crust. et Ins. p. 206, pl. 20. f. 1 (mala).

Habitat in Patagonia. In Mus. Hopeiano Oxoniæ.

2 *a*. Head, seen in front; 2 *b*. Palpi; 2 *c*. Two of the middle joints of the antennæ; 2 *d*. Anterior tarsus, showing the very narrow, lobeless state of the three basal joints.

Plate VII. fig. 3. Anoploderma bicolor, Guérin, Rev. Zool. 1840, p. 278; Blanchard, in Voyage d'Orbigny, Crust. et Ins., texte, p. 206, pl. 20. f. 2 (mala).

Habitat the Andes. In Mus. Guérin. Ex individuo typico delineatum.

3 *a*. Head, seen in front; 3 *b*. Tarsus.

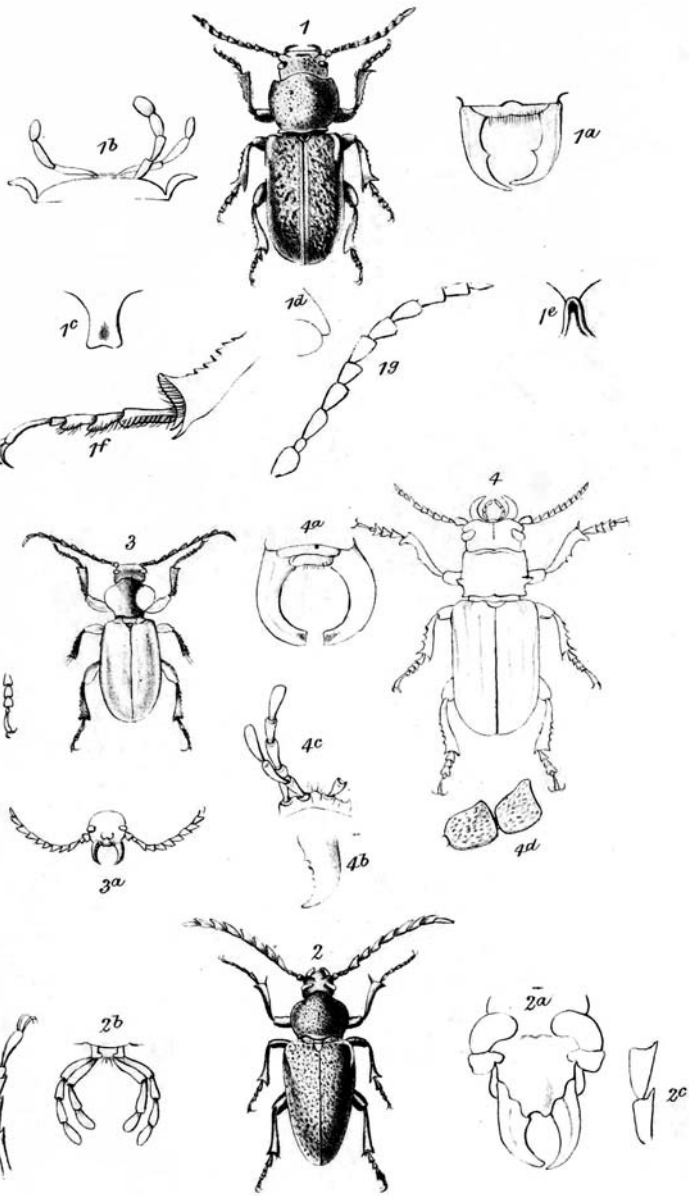
Plate VII. fig. 4. Cantharocnemis spondyloides, Serville, Ann. Soc. Ent. France, i. p. 132.

4 *a*. The clypeus, labrum, and mandibles of the male; 4 *b*. Mandible of female; 4 *c*. Labrum and palpus, with maxillary palpus; 4 *d*. Two of the middle joints of the antennæ.

Habitat in Senegallia. In Mus. Hopeiano Oxoniæ.

XII.—*List of the* Colydiidæ *collected in the Indian Islands by* Alfred R. Wallace, Esq., *and Descriptions of new Species.* By Francis P. Pascoe, F.L.S., &c.

With the exception of a few species described by me in the previous Numbers of this work, the whole of the Colydians collected by Mr. Wallace, and enumerated in this paper, are entirely new to science. They are fifty in number, belonging to twenty-four genera, of which eight are now for the first time characterized. Of the older genera, *Bothrideres* is universal, and *Cerylon* scarcely less so, except that it has not yet been detected in Australia; besides these, the only genus represented in Europe is *Colobicus*. Of the Asiatic, or rather of the Indian genera (for we scarcely know anything of this family beyond the two peninsulas), we find exponents of six in this collection, viz. *Phormesa*, *Machlotes*, *Dastarcus*, *Petalophora*, *Gempylodes*, and *Trachypholis*, while the only known Indian genus not found in it is



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