

cells. These appear to be rather seated on the tube than a development of it, though it is probable that there is a direct and free communication between them. The cells are scattered and always single, half a line in height, sessile, ovate, bulging below, horny, vesicular, slightly compressed, smooth, with a double keel down one side, each keel armed with from five to seven spinous teeth, placed sometimes nearly opposite, and in other instances alternating. The aperture is quadrangular, terminal and wide, half closed with a thin membrane, and furnished at each angle with a spinous denticle.

Though the polypes are unknown, yet there can be little hesitation, from the structure of the polypidom, in prognosticating their affinity to those of the family Vesiculariadae.

Fig. 1. *Beania mirabilis*, represented as it appears on one part of the shell, considerably magnified.

Fig. 2. Three vesicles, more highly magnified, to show their characters more exactly.

XXXII.—*Descriptions, &c. of some rare or interesting Indigenous Insects.* By JOHN CURTIS, Esq., F.L.S., &c.

MOST of the following species have been named and recorded in the 'Guide to an Arrangement of British Insects;' but as no opportunity offered of describing them during the progress of the 'British Entomology,' some of them have been noticed by other writers, who had not consulted the specimens, which will render it necessary to give a few definitions, which it is hoped will make it easy to identify them in future. The numbers refer to the Guide, and all the insects are in the cabinet of the author of the above works, excepting the *Hygrotus* and *Chrysomela*.

Order COLEOPTERA.

Fam. CARABIDÆ.

Genus 28. DROMIUS.

14. *angustatus*.

My specimen is $1\frac{1}{2}$ line long, but in other respects it agrees with *D. truncatellus*, and I suspect the *D. maurus* of Sturm is only a variety of the same insect.

Genus 48. BRADYTUS.

5. *marginatus*. Elongate-ovate, piceous; head rather small, strongly marked: thorax twice as broad, transverse, semiovate, being broadest at the base, on which there are two punctured striæ, the outer one forming an oblique sharpish line externally, a faint channel down the middle; sides convex, margined, bright ferruginous, depressed towards the basal angle: elytra broader, oval, striæ strong and crenated in the male; duller and faintly punctured in the female: palpi, antennæ and legs bright ferruginous: length 4 to 4½, breadth 1¾ to 2 lines.

Having taken a male on Boxhill, Surrey, in August, I now possess the sexes of this interesting species, and find that it connects *Bradytus* and *Amara*. The habit and structure of the legs are perfectly those of the latter group; but the head and thorax are more strongly marked. The palpi exhibit a very remarkable character; the terminal joints are compressed and truncated in the male, whilst they are fusiform and longer in the female, but it is probably accidental.

Dejean's description of **Amara patricia*, Creutzer, agrees with my insect; but it is very unsatisfactory to find him referring to Sturm's two figures of *A. mancipium* and *A. equestris*† as examples of Creutzer's insect, since the former appears to be a typical *Bradytus* and the latter a true *Amara*. It must be remembered that Sturm's dissections of the genus *Amara* are taken from *Carabus fulvus* of DeGeer and not from *Carabus consularis* as stated by Mr. Stephens.

Genus 49. AMARA.

23. *septentrionalis*. Elliptical, shining brassy green: thorax semiovate, being narrowed before, base punctured, with 2 shallow foveæ on each side, and a fine channel down the centre; elytra scarcely wider than the thorax, but more than twice as long and linear, striæ firm and delicately punctured, the 2nd abbreviated: trophi ochreous, palpi piceous: antennæ brown, 3 basal joints bright ochre: legs ochreous, thighs and 4 hinder tarsi piceous: length 3 lines, breadth 1¾.

The only specimen I have seen of this pretty species was taken in Scotland, and presented to me by Mr. Lyell.

Genus 76. TACHYS.

9. *minimus*. Deep dull ochreous, base of head and apex of antennæ darker, trophi very pale; eyes black; thorax with a faint dorsal channel; elytra with several obscure striæ, the 2 sutural ones the strongest: length 1 line.

Very similar to *T. minutissimus*, of which it may only be a pale

* *Spécies général des Coléoptères*, t. 3. p. 502.

† Sturm's *Deutschlands Fauna*, vol. vi. tab. 141. figs. C. and D.

variety. It was found under a stone on the beach at Sidmouth, Devon, by Mr. Marshall, the beginning of March.

Fam. DYTICIDÆ.

Genus 90. HYGROTUS.

- 1^a. *bisulcatus*. Ovate-conic, slightly pubescent, reddish-brown; base of antennæ and thorax ochreous, the latter pitchy at the base, and slightly punctured, with an oblique channel on each side: elytra minutely punctured, with a faint line of punctures on each side of the suture, which is darker, and a channel on each side of the base meeting those on the thorax: length $\frac{3}{4}$ of a line.

This singular little species was taken on Cambridge Fens by the Rev. J. L. Brown of Norwich. It seems to form the transition from *Hyphydrus* to *Hygrotus*.

Fam. PARNIDÆ.

Genus 101. PARNUS.

3. *montanus*.

Is only a pale ash-coloured variety of *P. prolifericornis*, several of which I found under stones upon the mountains near Ambleside.

Fam. MYCETOPHAGIDÆ.

Genus 160. TETRATOMA.

2. *pallida*. Shining ochreous, regularly and minutely punctured and slightly pubescent: head brownish; thorax with two large punctures or foveolets at the base: elytra thrice as long as the thorax, with a faint greenish shade: $1\frac{1}{2}$ line long.

Taken in Oct. amongst dry grass at Southgate by Mr. F. Walker.

Fam. ANISOTOMIDÆ.

Genus 164. PHALACRUS.

- 7^b. *castaneus*. Oval, slightly depressed; black, posterior angles of thorax and elytra castaneous, the latter with nearly 20 regular lines of punctures: underside and legs subpiceous: length 1 line.

Genus 167. LEIODES.

- 1^b. *vittata*. Globose-ovate, shining, bright and deep ochreous; eyes, tips of mandibles and upper side of club of antennæ fuscous; head and thorax minutely punctured, the former ferruginous; elytra punctured, with rather remote lines of punctures also, with a rosy tinge and a long conical fuscous stripe on each, probably arising from the dark wings folded beneath: length $\frac{5}{8}$ of a line.
2. *latifrons*. Oval, shining, ochreous; mandibles prominent, tips black; eyes gray; head and thorax broad, finely punctured; elytra scarcely broader than the thorax, transversely strigose, with very fine lines of punctures and a channel on each side of the suture: hinder thighs with a very strong spine beneath near the apex: length $\frac{5}{8}$ of a line.

L. vittata is characterized by its hemispherical form, whilst *L. latifrons* is ovate and somewhat linear: it is separated from *Anisotoma spinipes*, Gyll. by its paler colour, elytra with lines of punctures, and ochreous club of the antennæ. Both species I took in Norfolk, as well as *L. rufa*, which is only a variety of Gyllenhal's insect.

Fam. STAPHYLINIDÆ.

Genus 191^b. PELECYPHORUS, Nord. EURYPORUS, Erich.

2. *picipes*, Payk.

This species, recorded as *Astrupæus basalis*, proves to belong to a new genus, and will be found described in Gyllenhal under the name of *Oxyporus picipes**.

Genus 226. STENUS.

46. *basalis*. Glossy black, with a few ochreous hairs, thickest on the face, which is very rugose; thorax obovate, truncated at the base, very coarsely punctured as well as the elytra, which are quadrate convex and twice as broad; abdomen not margined, rather slender and punctured: base of tibiæ bright ochreous: antennæ reddish-brown: length 1 line.

The only specimens I have seen were found on mud, in the New Forest, in May, by Mr. Dale.

Genus 229. SUNIUS.

5. *unicolor*. Dark brown, pilose, thickly and minutely punctured: thorax reddish-brown, orbicular, the sides slightly compressed: elytra oblong, sericeous: abdomen piceous, margins of segments and apex ochreous, trophi of the same colour; antennæ and legs more ferruginous: length $1\frac{1}{4}$ line.

Fam. CORTICARIDÆ.

Genus 246. MONOTOMA.

2. *gracilis*. Narrow, brown, slightly glossy; head and thorax punctured, the former with acute basal angles, the latter with the anterior angles tuberculated, and a large shallow fovea towards the base, elytra reddish brown, slightly pubescent, with lines of punctures; antennæ and legs bright ochreous; head and thorax sometimes rufous: length $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ line.

Mr. Haliday has taken this species at various seasons near the bay of Belfast.

Fam. CERYLONIDÆ.

Genus 248^c. TEREDOSOMA, Curt.—Ips. Oliv.

Head short, semiorbicular: eyes lateral. Thorax long cylindric, tapering a little to the base: scutel minute, orbicular. Elytra scarcely broader than the thorax but twice as long, elliptic, cylindric; wings ample. Legs short, compressed; tibiæ dilated towards the apex, with a few minute spines; tarsi longish, 4-jointed, 3 basal joints small; claws simple.

* Insecta Suecica, vol. ii. p. 443.

Antennæ short, inserted before the eyes, capitate, hairy, 11-jointed; basal joint stout, hatchet-shaped, 2nd obovate, 3rd as long and slender, 6 following obovate-truncate, increasing in diameter, 10th and 11th forming a compressed club, the former semiorbicular, the latter suborbicular. *Labrum* broad, short, ciliated and pilose. *Mandibles* broad at the base, tridentate, with a hairy membranous internal margin. *Maxillæ* with a long, slender, hairy internal lobe and a broad but shorter external one terminated by an oval brush of hairs. *Palpi* somewhat long, stout and 4-jointed, basal joint small, 2nd semiovate, 3rd transverse, 4th the longest, ovate-conic, slightly truncated. *Mentum* trigonate-truncate. *Lip* small suborbicular. *Palpi* short and stout, attached to contiguous scapes, biarticulate, basal joint semiovate, 2nd ovate-conic, slightly truncated.

1. *nitida*, Payk.—*cylindrica*, *Oliv. v. 2. No. 18. pl. 2. f. 16.*

Black, shining, punctured: elytra castaneous-black, with faintly punctured striæ, antennæ and legs ferruginous: $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 lines long.

For specimens of this recent discovery in Britain, I am indebted to Mr. Trueman, who took them the end of June in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, in the trunk of an old oak tree.

Fam. ELATERIDÆ.

Genus 309^d. APLOTARSUS, *Step.* *Limonius* *Esch.*

24. *maritimus*. Antennæ with 3rd and 4th joints of equal length: terminal joint of palpi obovate, compressed and subtruncate: head margined in front: tarsi tapering, somewhat depressed, black, shining, with short ochreous pubescence and minutely punctured: thorax with the sides very convex and the basal angles very acute; spine of sternum long and slender: elytra broader; depressed, inclining to slate black, firmly striated, apex entire: tarsi piceous or reddish brown: length 2 lines, breadth $\frac{2}{3}$.

This very distinct species does not perfectly associate with the *Aplotarsi*, as will be seen by comparing the above description with that in British Entomology, of *A. aterrimus*, plate 694, but I do not find any other group better adapted to receive it. I first discovered *A. maritimus* under rejectamenta at Broughton, Lancashire, 30th of June 1827, and Mr. Little has since taken it at Raehills.

Genus 309^o. CARDOPHORUS.

- 41^b. *formosus*, Curt. Black, shining, variolated; thorax entirely rufous; elytra with strongly punctured striæ, having a slightly curved bright ochreous fascia near the base and a straighter one beyond the middle: legs ferruginous: length 3 lines, breadth $1\frac{1}{4}$.

The only specimen I have seen of this beautiful species was taken from the roots of some celery in a cottage garden near Wentworth

House, Yorkshire, and presented to me by Mr. Simmons, who unfortunately had laid a book upon it whilst on the setting-board, by which accident the antennæ were broken off and lost.

Fam. TELEPHORIDÆ.

Genus 188. TELEPHORUS.

20. *Æthiops*. Black, shining, clothed with short ochreous pubescence: trophi and base of antennæ beneath ochreous: thorax transverse, a little narrowed before, sides margined and lurid: elytra thickly punctured: legs piceous, base of tibiæ ochreous: 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines long.

Having taken many specimens of this insect, none of which agree with Fabricius's description of his *C. pulicaria*, nor with Olivier's figure, which has the entire border of the thorax ochreous, I have retained the name I first proposed. They were found on rushes and grass the middle of June 1827, on the sides of Red Skrees, a mountain near Ambleside, where I also discovered the true Linnæan *T. obscurus*, for which other varieties had been substituted in the London cabinets up to that period.

21^b. *apicalis*.

This is probably a variety of *T. fuscicornis* of Olivier: the antennæ and palpi are darker, and it is distinguished by a blackish stripe down the four anterior thighs and tibiæ.

27. *unicolor*. Long and narrow: clothed with short pubescence: entirely ochreous excepting the eyes, which are black and prominent, and the fuscous wings: thorax bright, shining, not transverse ovate, the base truncated, all the angles rounded: elytra duller, thickly punctured, with 2 obscure longitudinal lines on each: 4 lines long, 1 broad.

As this does not agree with Paykull's description of *C. pilosa*, I have retained my name. It was taken on the wing in the evening in Darent Wood.

Fam. BOSTRICIDÆ.

Genus 331. BOSTRICHUS.

3. *Waringii*. Ochreous, shining; head black, concave; thorax pale ferruginous, scabrous, with longish ochreous hairs in front; elytra punctate-striate, the suture piceous, an elongate oval space on the outer margin, and a stripe down the middle of each beyond the centre, but not reaching the apex, piceous also; underside blackish, legs deep ochreous: length $1\frac{1}{2}$ line.

I am indebted to Mr. Waring for my specimen, which he took in a house in Bristol. It is allied to *B. domesticus*, Linn.

Fam. CURCULIONIDÆ.

Genus 355. BALANINUS.

12. *scutellaris*.

This appears to be only a var. of the female of *B. Brassicæ*, Fab. with a white scutellum.

Genus 356. ANTHONOMUS.

5^b. *brunnipennis*. Ochreous-brown, glossy, with short ochreous pubescence: rostrum ferruginous, piceous at the base, faintly striated; antennæ fuscous, apex of basal joint ochreous: thorax thickly and coarsely punctured: elytra paler, strongly punctate-striate: thighs ochreous at the base, with a minute tooth beneath: 1 line long, including the rostrum.

I swept four specimens of this new species off heath the 16th of Aug. ascending the Fairie-hills in the Isle of Arran.

Genus 361. PISSODES?

4. *pygmæus*. Deep shining black, sparingly clothed with minute white scaly hairs: club of antennæ hoary; thorax with variolose punctures; elytra firmly striated, a little variegated with white scales towards the apex: legs and underside most thickly clothed with them: length $\frac{1}{4}$ of a line.

I have entirely forgotten where I found the 3 specimens of this very distinct little insect which are in my cabinet. At first sight they look very like *Molytes*, but I have little doubt of their belonging to the genus *Pissodes*.

Genus 362. HYPERA.

23. *fumipes*. Black, variegated with cinereous and cupreous scales: antennæ ferruginous, club piceous, funiculus 6-jointed: thorax with a stripe of scales on each side: elytra slightly bristly towards the apex, tessellated with black, especially down the suture and towards the extremity; legs ferruginous, sometimes inclining to fuscous, especially the thighs: length $1\frac{1}{2}$ line, including the rostrum.

I possessed only a single specimen when I gave the name of *fumipes* to this species, which was taken I believe by Mr. Babington near Cambridge. I have subsequently received others from Mr. Walton, which have ochreous and ferruginous legs, depending upon their age. The 6-jointed funiculus readily distinguishes this small species from the rest of the *Hypera*.

Genus 376. POLYDRUSUS.

6. *sericeus*.

I detected a female under a stone, on the banks of the Thames near Gravesend the 1st of June 1839, and Mr. Walton subsequently found many more specimens.

Genus 384. APION.

13. *Curtisii*, Kirby. Narrow and convex, chalybeous black, shining, very sparingly clothed with white hairs: antennæ with the two basal joints subferruginous, joints of funiculus globose: rostrum smooth and shining, face and thorax punctured, the latter cylindrical, slightly attenuated, with an oval pit at the base: elytra elongate-ovate, not twice as broad as the thorax, with delicate striæ and series of white hairs upon and between them: length, including the rostrum, not 1 line, breadth scarcely $\frac{1}{3}$.

The whole insect is convex, head, thorax and elytra, and not at all depressed as in *A. pubescens*, to which it is most nearly allied: it is further distinguished by the ferruginous base of the antennæ, the globose and not oval joints of the funiculus, and the rostrum is smooth and polished. Mr. Kirby drew up a description 20 years since from this unique specimen, which I took in Norfolk, with a view to publish it under the above name, but Mr. Stephens has merely described a variety of a common insect which he fancied was the same.

Fam. SALPINGIDÆ.

Genus 245^b. LISSODEMA HEYANA.

Will form a subgenus with **Sphæriestes 4-pustulatus* and *denticollis*, principally distinguished by the club of the antennæ being triarticulate and not 6-jointed: the structure of the tarsi justified my placing *Lissodema* before the *Heteromera*, and the position of *Salpingus* seems to be doubtful.

Fam. CHRYSOMELIDÆ.

Genus 429. EUMOLPUS?

3. *Hobsoni*. Castaneous, very thickly punctured, clothed with short depressed ochreous hairs: antennæ ochreous, longer than the thorax, disc of thorax black: elytra deep ferruginous, with a long black patch on the suture, a large spot at the base, another on the shoulder, 2 long black spots at the middle and 3 towards the apex, forming interrupted fasciæ: length $1\frac{1}{2}$ line, breadth $\frac{3}{4}$.

This insect, which will probably form a new genus, was taken by the late Mr. Hobson of Manchester, under the bark of a poplar-tree at Houghend Clough near Charlton.

Genus 431. CRYPTOCEPHALUS.

20. *ochraceus*. Smooth, shining, deep bright ochreous; antennæ blackish towards the apex; palpi piceous; face slightly punctured, with a channel down the middle: thorax broad with the margins and a line down the

* Curtis's British Entomology, folio 662.

middle yellow; scutel sometimes piceous: elytra yellow-ochre, suture piceous, humeral spot brown; striæ punctured, brown and oblique next the suture: underside black: length $1\frac{1}{4}$ line.

This little insect, which has been confounded with *C. pusillus* of Fabricius, has a wider and longer thorax and is well distinguished by its dark palpi and channeled face. I always find it in August on grass or herbage, and have never met with any variety as in the allied species, which is common on shallows in June. *C. ochraceus* is abundant at the side of the Avon near St. Vincent's Rocks; the sand hills, Sandwich; at Mickleham; Bungay Common, Suffolk; and Mr. Dale has met with it near Carisbrook Castle.

Genus 433. CHRYSOMELA.

22. *Sparshalli*. Smooth, shining, violaceous; thorax margined, with a few large punctures on each side: elytra orange colour; sparingly and irregularly punctured, the punctures all black, scutellum and suture also black: length 4 lines.

Taken near Epping by Mr. Doubleday, and is preserved in the collection of the late Mr. J. Sparshall of Norwich.

XXXIII.—*Information respecting Botanical and Zoological Travellers.*

Mr. Schomburgk's recent Expedition in Guiana.

[Continued from p. 35.]

It has been suspected that there exists a species of Otter in the rivers of South America which is undescribed. The difficulty connected with procuring these animals, and the absence of references to consult whether there were any specific differences between the two species which inhabit the rivers of Guiana and those which are already described, prevents me from giving it as my firm opinion that the Otters of Guiana are identical with *Lutra brasiliensis* of Ray, and *Lutra enudris* of F. Cuvier. Naturalists know very little about the habits of the South American Otters, nor is it ascertained that the species which is described by Azara is identical with the *Lutra brasiliensis*. The note which I select from my journal, although meagre in itself, may prove nevertheless acceptable, until we have a more perfect knowledge of their character.

During our first ascent of the river Essequibo we did not meet any Otters until we had passed the river Siparuni, and approached the island Tambicabo. We saw first only one, swimming like a dog, with the head and neck out of the water; but more and more made their