

NOTES ON SOME SINHALESE RHYNCHOTA.

BY G. W. KIRKALDY, F.E.S.

Fam. TETIGONIIDÆ [=JASSIDÆ, auctt.].

NIRVANA, gen. nov.

Belonging to subfam. Jassinæ. Head porrect, plane, nearly twice so long as pronotum, the lateral margins parallel so far as ocelli, subsequently very gently convergent, apex subangular. Eyes longer than wide, produced basally over the anterior margin of the pronotum, which is somewhat wider than the base of the vertex; ocelli small, indistinct, situated on the lateral margins of the vertex, at about half their length from the base. Posterior margin of head concave; frons slightly concave. Antennæ simple, very long. Scutellum slightly shorter than pronotum. Anterior coxæ free. Type *N. pseudommatos*, Kirkaldy.

The only example of the typical (and only) species that I have seen is macropterous; the tegmina and wings are longer than the abdomen, but the neuration is very feeble. The claval suture is well marked, though it ends abruptly just before it should reach the lateral margin of the tegmen; there are no other tegminal nervures except three indistinct longitudinal on the membrane (which is not sutured off from the rest of the tegmen). *Nirvana* may be placed provisionally near the American genus *Spangbergiella*, Signoret.

N. PSEUDOMMATOS, sp. n.

Hyaline; eyes yellowish brown, pronotum and scutellum tinged with stramineous. In the middle line of the vertex, close to the anterior margin, is a large round blackish brown spot, from which proceeds a thin median line of the same colour, terminating at the base ("apex" auctt.) of scutellum; along the lateral margins of the head (except apically) is a line of the same colour, continued (in the same straight line) on the pronotum. Tegmina hyaline, sparingly punctured, the punctures scantily piliferous; membrane pale salmon-coloured, a large round submedian spot and the apical margin blackish brown; three faint fasciæ on the corium of the same colour. Ventral surface whitish; apex of posterior tibiæ and first segment of posterior tarsi blackish.

Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ mill. Pundaluoya (July, 1898, E. E. Green).

I have only one specimen, unfortunately, of this pretty but fragile little Tetigoniid, and have therefore not risked a detailed examination of the genitalia, &c., hoping to receive later a series. A coloured representation (as also of the other new species) will appear in another place; in the meantime the characteristic form—not unlike that of *Hecalus*, Stål—the feebly developed "nervural" system and the remarkable colouring, hyaline and

colourless with a membranal black spot encircled by pale salmon, will at once distinguish it from any of its allies.

TETIGONIA ALBIDA (Walker).

Peradeniya, January, 1900 (E. E. Green). Reg. No. 102. "Makes itself a great nuisance, swarming round lamps in the rooms at night" (E. E. Green *in litt.* 5 (iii.), 1900.

This pretty little species, which has been kindly identified by my friend Dr. Melichar, is widely distributed, having been recorded previously from North Australia, the Philippines, "British India," Madagascar, Senegambia, Kaffraria, and Cape of Good Hope. It is figured by Signoret, 1853, *Ann. Soc. Ent. France* (3) i. pl. 21, f. 3.

TETIGONIA KALIDASA, sp. n.

Belongs to subgenus *Diedrocephala*, Spinola. Head sub-acutely triangular, vertex slightly concave, basal half very narrowly sulcate. Pale green, an angularly arched fascia on the vertex, two concentric roundly arched fasciæ on the pronotum, each of which is continued on to the clavus, meeting the claval suture; two fairly straight fasciæ on the corium (sometimes a little irregular), bright scarlet (in one specimen orange-yellow). Membrane sometimes infuscate. Ventral surface pale yellowish green. Length $4\frac{3}{4}$ – $5\frac{1}{4}$ mill. Pundaluoya (April, 1898, E. E. Green).

This handsome little scarlet-and-green species is interesting as belonging to the subgenus *Diedrocephala*, which is mainly (if not even entirely) American.

THOMSONIELLA KIRSCHBAUMII (Stål), Sign., was omitted by Kirby in his Catalogue. It is figured in *Ann. Soc. Ent. France* (5) 10, pl. 1, fig. 44 (1880).

†GYPONA STRIATA, Kirby, 1891, *J. L. S.* xxiv. p. 171, and †G. PRASINA, Walker, 1858, *List. Hom. Suppl.* p. 258, do not conform to the genus *Gypona*, Germ., as restricted by recent authors. They are closely allied to *Titia*, Stål, but will probably require a new genus. Both specific names are preoccupied by Burmeister (*Genera Insect.* pl. 16), and as, according to the now generally accepted rule, "once a synonym, always a synonym," they are now invalid for any genus, I propose KIRBYI and WALKERI, nom. nov., respectively. As Kirby surmises, (*l. c.* p. 171), fresh examples of *Kirbyi* (*striata*) are grass-green in colour.

Fam. FULGORIDÆ.

†EURYBRACHYS WESTWOODII, Kirby, *l. c.* 146, is a MESSENA, Stål.

MELICHARIA, gen. nov.

Belongs to subfamily Poekillopterinæ [= Flatidæ + Ricaniidæ auctt.], and is very closely allied to *Flata*, Fabr. and

Ormenis, Stål.* The general characters are those of *Flata*, but the single series of nervures dividing the membrane from the corium is much more regular, and there is no reticulation at the apex of the latter. There are also no transverse nervures in the clavus.

Type M. SINHALANA, nom. nov.—This is the †*Poeciloptera quadrata*, Kirby, *l. c.* p. 154, pl. vi. f. 8, but not that of Walker from Jamaica (1850, List. Hom.), and, therefore, in accordance with the rule mentioned above, the name is now changed.

SCARPANTA TENNENTINA (Walker) = *Scarpanta latipennis*, Kirby, *l. c.* p. 153. The unique specimen of *latipennis* appears to be founded upon a poor example of *tennentina*.

RICANIA FENESTRATA (Fabr.); Peradeniya, frequenting *Aristolochia*, sp. (E. E. Green).

Family GEOCORIDÆ [=Lygæidæ auctt.]

In employing remedial measures against insect pests, entomologists have often to guard against the destruction at the same time of certain natural enemies of these pests, owing to the general similarity in appearance, both in external structure and in colour, of the insectivores and their prey. Mr. Green has recently sent me two nymphs, one of *Antilochus coquebertii* (Fabr.), the other of *Dysdercus cingulatus* (Fabr.)—the dreaded “Oriental Cotton-stainer”—with the note that the former had been discovered with its rostrum inserted in the person of the latter; as these two species belong to the same subfamily, Pyrrhocorinæ [=Largidæ + Pyrrhocoridæ auctt.], all the members of which are reputed to be vegetable feeders, I wrote Mr. Green, querying the note; but, in a reply dated Sept. 13th, 1900, he observes: “I think *Antilochus coquebertii* normally preys upon *Dysdercus cingulatus*; I have repeatedly seen the performance. If the two individuals are put in a glass tube together, the *Antilochus* immediately pounces upon the *Dysdercus*.” As the two insects are, comparatively, very similar in appearance, the former being merely larger and more brightly coloured in all stages, this observation appears to be of distinct value in connection with the cotton-plant question.

Fam. CIMICIDÆ.

CANTHECONA COGNATA, Dist.

C. furcellata, Wolff, has been noted (Indian Museum Notes, ii. 165, and iii. (5) 56) as a destroyer of caterpillars; Mr. Green has now sent me specimens (imago and nymph) of *C. cognata*, Dist. [= *insularis*, Kirby] that were “doing really good service in preying upon a caterpillar that was ravaging some croton plants here” (Peradeniya, Reg. No. 302).

* A detailed description, with figures of neuration, &c., was in progress when I learned that Dr. Melichar has in preparation a monographic revision of the group: I have therefore given here only a brief diagnosis.