

XLIX. *Description of a new Genus of Lamellicorn Beetles from India, belonging to the Family Rutelidæ. By J. O. WESTWOOD, F.L.S., &c.*

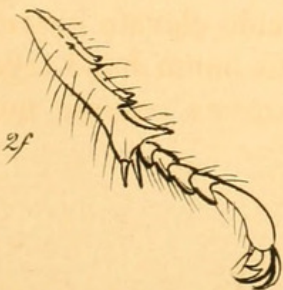
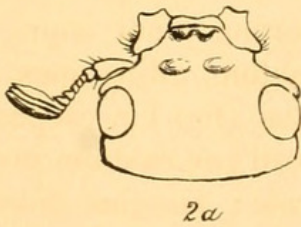
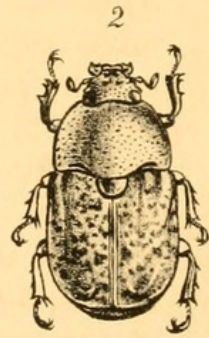
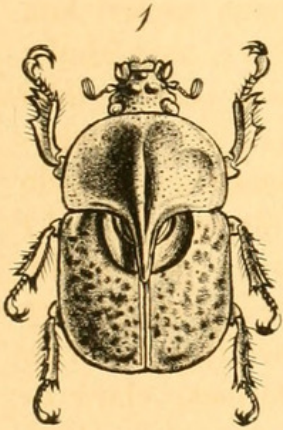
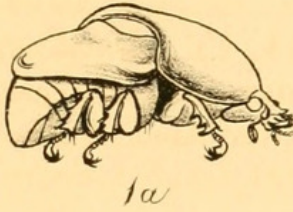
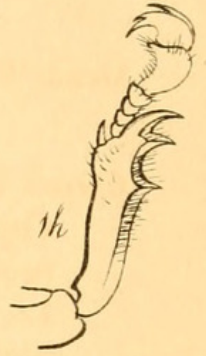
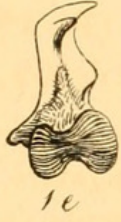
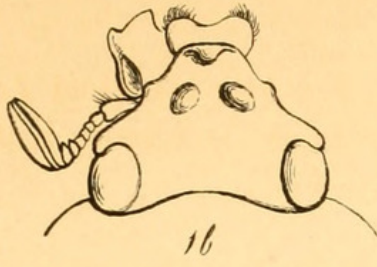
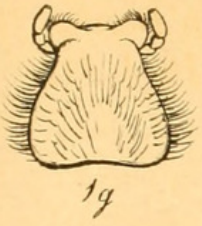
[Read 3rd August, 1846.]

Family RUTELIDÆ.

Genus PEPERONOTA, *Westw.* (Pl. XXII. fig. 1, and details, of the male; fig. 2, and details, of the female.)

Corpus breve, crassum, valde convexum; pedibus brevissimis.

Caput mediocre, subtriangulare, vertice bituberculato, clypeoque tuberculato, tuberculo unico in ♂, duobus in ♀, (fig. 1 *b*, caput ♂; 2 *a*, ♀, supra visum). *Labrum* porrectum, breve, transversum, corneum, anticè in medio subemarginatum, (fig. 1 *b*, ♂, 2 *b*, ♀). *Mandibulæ* breves, latæ, corneæ, angulo externo antico in tuberculo obtuso producto (ore clauso, clypeo et labro haud oblecto); angulo interno quadrato, spatio subtus tenue setigero; portione molari lata tenuissime transverse strigosa, (fig. 1 *c*, 1 *d*, 1 *e*, mandibulæ maris, supra, externe et interne visæ). *Maxillæ* corneæ, lobo externo producto, 6-dentato; dentibus sic (ex apice) dispositis 1, 2, 3; palpi maxillares breves, 4-articulatæ, articulo 2^{ndo} 3^{tio} duplo longiori, ultimo majori subovali, (fig. 1 *f* and 2 *c*). *Mentum* crateriforme, valde setosum, apice paullo dilatato, margine antico in medio emarginato; palpi labiales breves, 3-articulati, articulo intermedio minori, (fig. 1 *g*, 2 *d*). *Antennæ* breves, 10-articulatæ, sexu conformes, clava 3-phylla parva, (fig. 1 *b*, 2 *a*). *Pronotum* fere semicirculare, valde gibbosum, nitidissimum, punctatum, medio marginis postici in mare, in cornu tenui supra scutellum et basin suturæ extenso productum, cujus apex deflexus in impressionem suturæ receptus (fig. 1 *a*, corpus ♂ e latere visum); canali tenui longitudinali per medium pronoti maris extenso; foeminæ simplex inerme; margine postico in medio rotundato, utrinque subsinuato. *Scutellum* latum, fere semicirculare. *Elytra* brevia, convexa; maris opaca nisi spatio nitido semicirculari depresso prope scutellum; foeminæ minus opaca, punctata, singulo versus apicem tuberculo elevato instructo; marginibus lateralibus integris, apicibus anum haud tegentibus. *Podex* deflexus. *Pro- et meso-sterna* omnino mutica



et simplicia, nec elevata nec porrecta. *Pedes* brevissimi, in maribus præsertim incrassati; tibiæ anticæ 3-dentatæ, dentibus duobus apicalibus approximatis; tibiæ intermediæ extus biangulatæ, singulo angulo in medio dentibus duobus instructo; tibiæ posticæ extus 1-angulatæ, dentibus duobus eodem modo positis. *Tarsi* brevissimi, 5-articulati, maris robustiores præsertim in pedibus anticis, articulo 5to majori curvato, apice subtus onychia distincta setigera armato; unguibus omnibus in utroque sexu æqualibus, uno bifido, altero simplici; unguibus pedum anticorum maris magnis difformibus, majori valde curvato et supra dente armato, minori simplici.

Fig. 1*h*, tibia et tarsus anticus; 1*i*, tibia et tarsus intermedius maris; 2*e*, apex tibiæ, cum tarso antico; 2*f*, tibia intermedia; 2*g*, tibia postica fœminæ.

In the first part of the fourth volume of the Transactions of the Entomological Society I described a genus of *Lamellicorn* beetles belonging to the family *Rutelidæ*, composed of species inhabiting Asia and its dependent islands, being the only insects of that family which had hitherto been discovered in that quarter of the world, the great majority of the species being almost exclusively natives of the New World. The genus *Parastasia*, in several of its characters, constitutes a very marked addition to the family, which, with *Chalcentis*, (formed of two Brazilian species,) and probably with the addition of the undescribed Australian group, named *Cælidia* in Dejean's Catalogue, has been formed by Dr. Burmeister into a separate subfamily, distinguished by the subsinuated labrum, the clypeus generally dentate at its anterior extremity, and the short broad scutellum.

The insects which constitute the genus of which the characters are laid down above, represent another and not less important link in the classification of this beautiful family. Like *Parastasia*, they are inhabitants of the East; and thus, in an Entomo-geographical point, are particularly interesting; but it is in their characters that we look for their chief peculiarities. And here we find that whilst they possess, with only one or two immaterial exceptions, the entire characters of the family *Rutelidæ*, as laid down by Mr. MacLeay in the "*Horæ Entomologicæ*," i. p. 69, they possess generic distinctions which will at once remove them from every known *Rutelideous* group.

It may, I think, be laid down as a rule, that where the males of any insect exhibit strikingly marked external sexual charac-

ters, it is the female which must be examined, with the view to the situation of the species in the system, for in this sex those characters which most strikingly individualize the species are not reproduced, and consequently the characters of the family are more clearly to be seen. Thus, whilst the male of the species before us possesses a character which not only at once individualizes it amongst the great mass of Lamellicorn beetles, but also distinguishes it from every known Coleopterous insect, (namely, the posterior production of the middle of the hinder part of the pronotum into a curved slender horn, extending backwards over the scutellum and base of the suture,) the female at first sight possesses so little of distinctive peculiarity that it might be mistaken for a dull-coloured *Chasmodia* or *Pelidnota*. It is worthy of further remark, that whilst so many of the *Rutelidæ* possess a strongly porrected mesosternal spine, this insect has the pro- and meso-sterna entirely simple, and not in the least degree prominent or porrected; in fact it would almost seem to be a freak of nature which has metamorphosed the porrected mesosternum of *Rutela* into the recurved pronotal horn of *Peperonota*. In its simple sterna, moreover, this genus affords a better representation of the *Geotrupidæ* (of which the *Rutelidæ* are the analogues in the Classification of MacLeay) than the ordinary types of the family. In addition to the preceding observations I shall only notice, that the rugose tuberculated clypeus, the identity in the mode in which the tarsal ungues of both sexes are notched, and the broad and very short scutellum, constitute its chief marks of distinction from the majority of the family to which it belongs.

As it is contrary to the strict rules of nomenclature to derive either a generic or specific name from a sexual character, I have abstained from employing the singular formation of the pronotum as a ground for the appellation of the insect; I therefore propose for it the name of

Peperonota Harringtonii.

Obscure luteo-fulva (♂) vel nigra (♀), capite supra nigro, antennarum clava fulva, pronoto maris fulvo, disco brunneo, fœminæ nigro punctato, elytris luteo- vel castaneo-fulvis, maculis minutis irregularibus, plus minusve confluentibus notatis.

Long. corp. lin. 10, ♂; lin. 9, ♀.

Habitat in India orientali, prope montes Himalayanæ, et mecum (pro descriptione) communicato Dom. Harrington, F.L.S. Entomologo indefesso. (In Mus. Dom. Parry et Melly.)



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