

GRYLLUS MIGRATORIUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Caput inflexum, maxillosum, palpis instructum.

Antennæ setaceæ, seu filiformes.

Alæ quatuor, deflexæ, convolutæ: inferiores plicatæ.

Pedes postici saltatorii. *Ungues* ubique bini.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 693.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

GRYLLUS thorace subcarinato: segmento unico, capite obtuso, maxillis atris.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 700.

GRYLLUS thorace subcarinato: segmento unico, mandibulis cæruleis.

Fabr. Spec. Inf. tom. 1. p. 365.

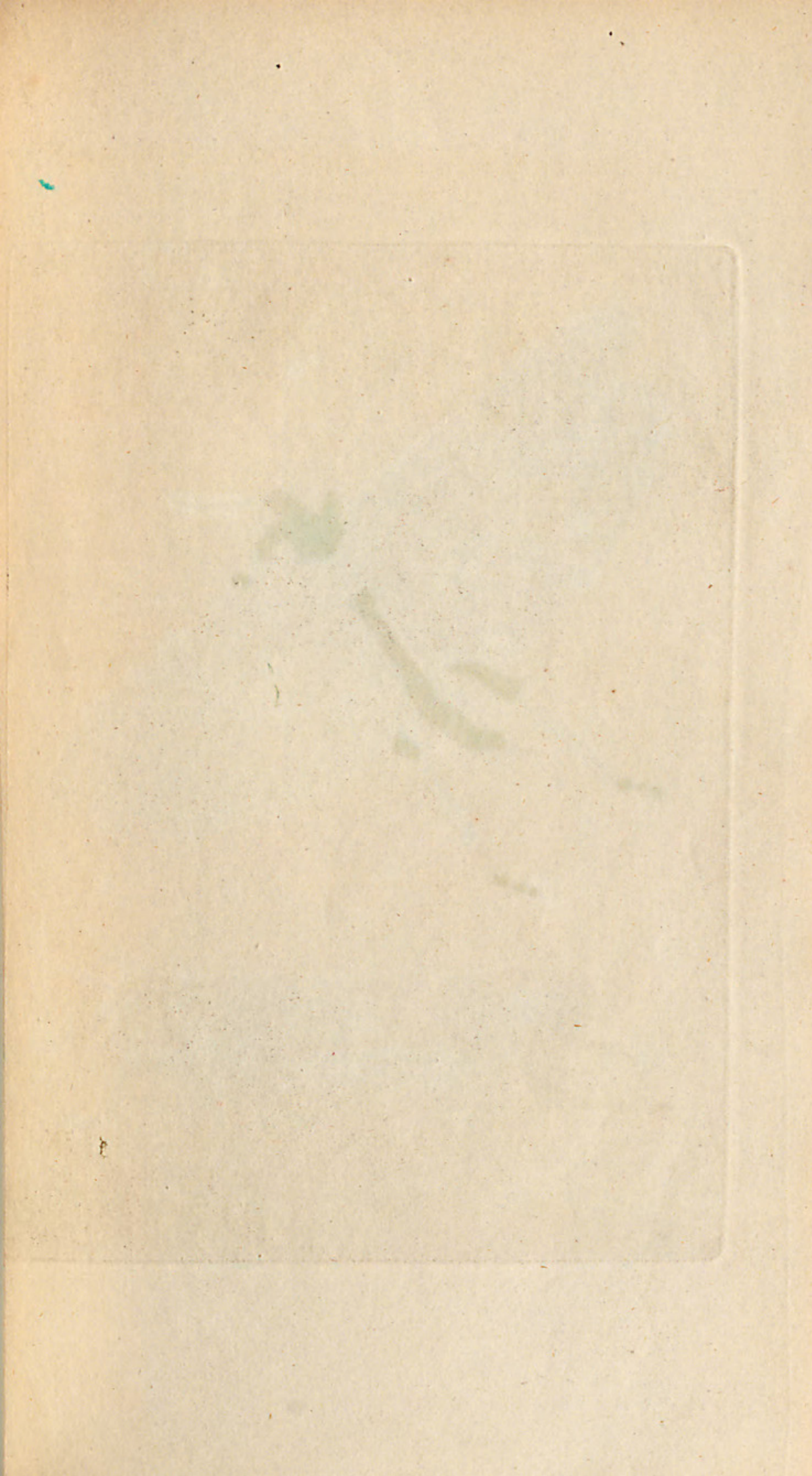
Præter omnia insecta quæ fruges devorando hominum misérias augere solent, Grylli, sive Locustæ ut communiter dicuntur, maxime metuendam stragem nobis inferunt. In calidioribus terræ partibus, Africæ præcipue et Orientis regionibus, edacissimorum horum animalium innumeræ exurgunt catervæ, quæ supra fidem omnia devastant; tractus per quos volitant, fere desolant, et spatio brevi amœnissimas et fertilissimas provincias in deserta convertunt; dum densissimo eorum

rum agmine ipse dies adimitur. Dubitari pene possit, sintne locustæ nocentiores vivæ an mortuæ; e mortuorum enim millibus tanta exoritur putredo, ut incipientis pestis una e causis valentissimis censeatur. Locustarum plurimæ sunt species, quarum quæ maxime fortasse vorax et exitiosa est ea in tabula depicta, quæ Gryllus Migratorius LINNÆI. Plerumque coloris est subfufci, sed maculis obscurioribus variati; et in quibusdam corporis partibus coloris est rubentis, seu potius carnei; crura autem plerumque sunt subcærulea. Anno millesimo septingentesimo quadregesimo octavo, in varias Europæ partes irrupit hæc species, sed in catervis sparsis et diffractis. In Germaniam, Galliam, et Angliam involabant, et in urbe ipsa Londini ejusque vicinio plurimæ reperiiebantur hujusmodi locustæ: brevi tamen spatio pericere, vix ulla agris illata injuria. Maxima omnium specierum hætenus cognitarum est Gryllus cristatus LINNÆI, qui insectum jam descriptum mole quincuplici vel etiam sextupla superat; quique cum aliis majoribus hujus generis, in nonnullis Orientis regionibus pro cibo usurpari solitus est. Non tantum recentes, sed et sale conditæ comeduntur hæ locustæ, et in foro publico venales prostant in oppidis Levantinis. Substantia tamen earum pergracilis est, præcipue insectorum marium; nam foeminæ ob ovarium paulo pleniorē escam suppeditant. Notissimum est multum disputasse theologos de loco in scriptis evangelicis, ubi dicitur JOANNEM BAPTISTAM locustis et melle sylvestri vitam sustinuisse, quorum nonnulli per verbum ἀγρίδας, teneras tantum plantarum summitates intelligi voluerunt. Cum tamen probe com-

pertum

pertum sit, Arabas hisce animalibus vel nunc pro cibo
uti, vix egere videtur illa vox ulla alia interpretatione
præter communem et vulgarem. Cur enim miremur
sanctum illum et abstemium prophetam, cum ab inani-
bus mundi gaudiis se procul subduceret, cibo usum fu-
isse non sane inter dapes lautiores numerando, sed illo
tantum qui in locum potioris escæ suffectus sit? Ut
hanc conjecturam firmemus, testimonium Domini HAS-
SELQUIST liceat nobis proferre, qui de hac ipsa re ita lo-
quitur. “ Qui infectis virum hunc sanctum vesci soli-
tum fuisse negant, aiunt cibum e locustis paratum ig-
notum prorsus esse et inusitatum. Si vero hi in Ægyp-
tum, Arabiam, aut Syriam migrarent, longe aliter de
hac re sentirent: certis enim temporibus locustas as-
satas communiter comedunt Arabes, nec dubitandum
est illis tempore quo vixit JOANNES BAPTISTA, pro ci-
bo fuisse. Præterea his locis mores antiqui non facile
dilabuntur, nec BAPTISTÆ cibus mirus aut insolitus
jam reputatur. Presbyter etiam Græcus, nequaquam
indoctus, mihi pro vero affirmavit ecclesiam suam per
verbum *αἰσίδα* locustas semper intellexisse; risitque
ipse cum a me audiret nostros interpretes plantam aut
avem illo verbo significari conjecisse. ”

peritum illi. Arabas hinc animalibus vel nunc pro cibo
ut, vix egere videtur illa vox illa alia interpretatione
patet. committunt et virgatum. Qui enim interpretatur
sacrum illud et adfessionem prophetam, cum ab mani-
bus mundi grandis se procul subducit, cibo utitur su-
ille non tamen inter dapes sacras numerando, sed illo
tantum quod in locum positus est, sufficiens sit. Ut
hanc conjecturam firmemus, testimonium Domini I. I.
haec est licet nobis probetur, qui de hac ipse se ita lo-
quitur. "Qui ioculis virum hunc sanctum videri so-
lum fuisse negant, sicut cibum a loculis paratum ig-
norum propter esse et inuitatum. Si vero in ioculis
tam Arabibus, nec Syriam ingerant, longe aliter de
hoc se sentiant. Ecce enim temporibus locustas ad-
fuit committunt et comedunt Arabes, nec dubitandum
est illi respondere vixit Iovis et Iovis, pro ci-
bo hinc. Propter hoc loci non est antipathia non facile
disputant, nec hanc esse cibum minus aut indignum
interpretantur. Et hinc etiam Graeci, respondunt
nobis, quod pro illius ecclesiam suam par-
tem habet, locustas hinc non habet, sed quod
et cum a me in hoc loco non potest plura aut
etiam illo verbo significari conuenit."





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THE
MIGRATORY,
OR,
WANDERING LOCUST.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Head inflected, armed with jaws, and furnished with palpi or feelers.

Antennæ either setaceous, or filiform.

Wings four, deflected, convolute; the inferior ones plaited.

Hind-Feet formed for leaping. *Claws* on all the feet double.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

GRYLLUS with subcarinated thorax with a single segment, obtuse head, and blackish or blueish jaws.

Of all the insects which are capable of adding to the calamities of mankind by devouring the products of the earth, locusts seem to possess the most formidable powers of destruction. Legions of these voracious creatures are from time to time produced in various parts of Africa and the Eastern World, where the havoc they commit is almost incredible. They carry desolation with

with them wherever they pass, and in the short space of a few hours change the most fertile provinces into the appearance of a barren desert ; while the air is darkened by their numbers. Nay even when dead they are still terrible, since the putrefaction which arises from their inconceivable number, is such that it has been regarded as one of the principal causes of a beginning pestilence. There are a great many different species of locusts. One of the most destructive is the *Gryllus Migratorius* of LINNÆUS, or the Wandering Locust, here represented. It is generally of a brownish color, varied with spots of a deeper cast, and in some parts with pale red or flesh-color, and the legs are commonly blueish. In the year 1748 this species appeared in irregular flights in several parts of Europe ; as in Germany, France, and England, and in London in particular, and its neighbourhood, great numbers were seen : they perished however in a short time, and were not productive of any mischief. The largest species of locust yet known is the *Gryllus Cristatus* of LINNÆUS, which is five or six times as large as the species just described ; and which, together with some other of the larger kind, is made use of in some parts of the world as an article of food. They are eaten both fresh and salted, in which last state they are publicly sold in the markets in some parts of the Levant. The quantity of edible substance which they afford is but small, especially in the male insects ; but the females, on account of the ovaries, afford a more nutritious sustenance. It is well known that different interpretations have sometimes been given of the passage
in

in the sacred writings in which JOHN THE BAPTIST is said to have fed on locusts and wild honey ; and the word *axipdas* has been supposed to mean the young shoots of vegetables, rather than locusts ; but since the fact is well established, that these insects are still eaten by the inhabitants of the East, there seems not the least reason for admitting any other interpretation than the usually received one : Why should we wonder that the abstemious prophet, during his state of solitary seclusion from the commerce of the world, should support himself by a repast which is to be numbered not amongst the luxuries of life, but merely regarded as a substitute for food of a more agreeable nature ? We may also adduce, in support of this idea, the testimony of HASSELQUIST, who thus expresses himself on this very subject. " They who deny insects to have been the food of this holy man, urge, that this insect is an unaccustomary and unnatural food ; but they would soon be convinced of the contrary, if they would travel hither, to Egypt, Arabia, or Syria, and take a meal with the Arabs. Roasted locusts are at this time eaten by the Arabs at the proper season, when they can procure them ; so that in all probability this dish has been used in the time of ST. JOHN. Ancient customs are not here subject to many changes, and the victuals of JOHN are not believed unnatural here ; and I was assured by a judicious Greek priest, that their church had never taken the word in any other sense, than that of locusts ; and he even laughed at the idea of its being a plant or a bird."

HASSELQUIST's *Travels*, Eng. Translation, p. 419.



Shaw, George. 1791. "The Migratory or Wandering Locust, *Gryllus migratorius* [Pl. 62]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 2(XX), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310713>.

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