

been such in the inland neighbourhood, so many as seventeen have been reckoned on a single tree. In a rabbit warren at the wild peninsula of the Horn, in the north-west of the county of Donegal, I once, on the 27th of June, saw forty of these birds in a dense flock. A note appears in my journal stating that, on the 3rd of April and several previous mornings, seven or eight of these birds frequented an old garden in the town of Belfast, and one or two of them were occasionally to be seen perched on the back of a cow kept there. By George Mathews, Esq., of Springvale, county of Down, I have been informed that a relation living there, had a pet gray crow which followed him about the place. When not so engaged, it sometimes went to feed with its brethren on the shore, but always hurried back to its master when whistled for.

In the middle of May last, I met with this species in the Valley of Sweet Waters, near Constantinople, and at the beginning of June, in the islands of Delos and Paros.

LI. *Descriptions, &c. of a few rare or undescribed species of British Diptera, principally from the collection of J. C. DALE, Esq., M.A., F.L.S., &c.*

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING some Diptera in my British Collection of Insects which I could not ascertain the names of, I forwarded a few to Mr. Haliday for his opinion; and wishing that other entomologists should profit thereby as well as myself, I think I cannot do better than to make it public through the medium of the 'Annals.'

I am, yours obediently,

J. C. DALE.

Curtis's Guide, genus 1157, LIMNOBIA. (Subgenus DICRANOMYIA?) Sectio.—Nervo cubitali furcato ramis liberis.

Areola disci nulla.

Areola brachiali anteriore posteriorem superante.

L. flavo-limbata (C. G., species 39^b).—Fusca, thoracis et scutelli limbo, pectoris vittâ laterali dilatatâ et ventris incisuris flavis: alis obscure hyalinis, stigmatè pallido, nervis pubescentibus.

♂ ♀ Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$ —3; alar. 6 lin.

? Synon. *L.* (39 C. G.) *pavida*, A. H. H., Ent. Mag. I. From a late letter it appears to be different from *pavida*, though allied to it.

"Fusca nitida. Antennæ fuscæ thoracis longitudine. Mesothoracis scutum et scutellum flavo-marginata. Pleuræ magnâ parte flavæ. Abdominis incisuræ ventrales et dorsalis ultima tenuiter flavicantes. Terebra rufescens gracilis recurva. Forceps ♂ brachiis linearibus reflexis. Pedes fuscii. Halteres fusco-pallidi. Alæ obscure-hyalinæ, nervis pubescentibus, stigmatè obsoleto lutescente ad apicem nervi subcostalis. Nervus subcostalis marginem attingit adversus fuscam nervi cubitalis. Nervus mediastinus cum subcostali connexus paulo ultra ortum radii, et cito marginem attingens. Nervus

cubitalis furcatus, ramo anteriore brevi ($\frac{1}{3}$ posterioris), areola externa 2da dimidio tertiæ paulo longior : brachialis 2da parum brevior 1mâ.—Hal. MS.

This species I find in plenty in a damp part of a small coppice here during the end of June and beginning and middle of July.

Curtis's Guide, genus 1157, LIMNOBIA. (Subgenus IDIOCERA?)

L. sex-guttata.—Fusca, antennis medio flavicantibus, thorace schistaceo vittâ duplicatâ fuscâ, pedibus ferrugineis, alis obscurè hyalinis albo fuscoque variegatis, guttis 3 marginalibus albis ante apicem.

♂ Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$; alar. $5\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

♀ ——— 3. ——— $7\frac{1}{4}$ „

“Fusca. Antennæ thoracis longitudine articulis intermediis flavicantibus basi fuscis extremis valdè attenuatis. Thorax schistaceus vittis 2 fusco-ferrugineis in scutellum continuatis. Venter fusco-testaceus. Terebra rufescens gracilis recurva. Pedes cum coxis ferruginei. Femora et tibiæ apice, tarsi præter basin fuscæ. Alæ obscurè hyalinæ, indistinctè albo-maculatæ. Costa fusco-punctata. Nervi transversî et axillaris apex fusco-maculati. Costa fusco-limbata a furcâ nervi cubitalis usque in apicem, guttis 3 albis, unicâ in areolâ singulâ. Nervus subcostalis exit adversus furcam nervi cubitalis. Nervus mediastinus adversus apicem areolæ brachialis 2dæ exit, et cum subcostale connectitur contra ortum radii. Cubitus furcatus ramis liberis, posteriore apice incurvo. Areolæ externa 2da (quæ petiolata) dimidia longitudine anterioris, nervo posteriore ejusdem basi rectangulatim fracto et appendiculato (scilicet areolæ disci incompletæ); areolæ brachialis posterior multo brevior anteriore.”

I discovered this exceedingly pretty *Limnobia* on a boggy spot on Cosmore common near this place, and afterwards lost another out of my net in the New Forest, and lastly, on the sea-coast at Charmouth I took two or three more specimens.

The dates are June 22, 1840.

July 1, 1839 (Cosmore common).

July 8, 1840 (Charmouth).

It appears to be very rare. Mr. Haliday says it is very distinct, and one of the prettiest species he ever saw; it was quite new to him. I have also given a pair to Mr. Curtis.

I have a ♂ *Limnobia fasciata* from the lakes of Cumberland, taken by G. Wailes, Esq. Mr. Haliday says it is also found in Lapland. The *L.* (or *Idioptera*?) var.? of *marmorata*? or *pulchella*? I took in tolerable plenty, in one particular spot only (where the common *marmorata*, though it varies much, did not occur), and they agree in size and markings as well as may be. The date is end of May 1840 and 1841, and at no other time; this seems in favour of its being a distinct species.

Curtis's Guide, genus 1217, OXYCERA.

O. longicornis.—“Nigra, maculâ laterali verticis, orbitâ internâ supra antennis repandâ, thoracis vittâ laterali, scutello et abdominis limbo flavis; antennis capitis longitudine apice parum attenuatis. ♀”

Mr. Haliday has this unique species, and I cannot give the exact measure, but it is about the size of *O. muscaria*.

“Nigra subglabra. Antennæ solito longiores et graciliores, articulis extremis parum attenuatis, unde stylus indiscretus: os flavum: orbita postica et interna flavæ, hæc supra antennis in margine frontis inflexa. Vertex

utrinque maculâ flavâ. Thorax vittâ laterali flavâ pone alas dilatatâ. Scutellum flavum. Abdomen limbo tenui flavo. Halteres albidî. Alæ hyalinæ nervis introrsum flavicantibus. Pedes cum coxis ferruginei: tibiæ anticæ apice, posteriores medio, tarsi antici toti, posteriores apice fuscî."

"Seems very much similar to Macquart's *O. tenuicornis*, but the peculiar marking of the head may afford a distinction, as Macquart leaves us to infer that his agrees in that with *O. muscaria*, very different from yours."—*Hal. MSS. (in litteris)*. This (at present) *unique* insect I believe I took at the same place and time on Cosmore common with the *Limnobia 6-guttata*, but had previously taken it for a *var.* of *O. muscaria* (*pygmæa*, Fall.?). Mr. Haliday considers it very distinct.

While I am on the genus *Oxycera*, I may as well mention that *he* thinks he saw *O. hypoleon*? in the cabinet of the late Mr. Tardy of Dublin; but as it is some years since, and he has no opportunity of again inspecting it, he will not be positive. If we can ascertain this to be British, our list will contain—

1. *O. hypoleon*? near Dublin (*Mr. Tardy*?).
2. *O. pulchella*, tolerably common in England, Scotland (and Ireland?).
3. *O. trilineata*, common everywhere.
4. *O. formosa*, pretty common everywhere.
5. *O.* { *muscaria*, Cosmore common, Portland.
 pygmæa (*var. affinis*), Charmouth, &c.
6. *O. Morrisii*, Curtis, Br. Ent. plate 441. This seems to be widely distributed: I have taken it here, near Charmouth, near Cambridge, and Castle Edendene; and Mr. Haliday took it in Ireland.
7. *O. pardalina*? I never took, except near Lyme, but I think Mr. Haliday has observed it in Ireland. My specimens do not quite agree with Meigen's figure; the spots on the abdomen are not so united as in his figure.
8. *O. analis*, confined to Glanville's Wootton, as far as I know or can learn.
9. *O. leonina*, the rarest of all; I have a *pair*, both from Charmouth; the ♂ I took.
10. *O. terminalis*, found here and at Charmouth, and at Pinny, near Lyme Regis.
11. *O. longicornis*, Mr. Haliday as above.

Curtis's Guide, genus 1290, CÆNOSIA, Meig.

(*This is not given as a new species.*)

C. mollicula? of Fallen and Zetterstald?? "*Cæsia antennis palpis pedibusque flavis; abdomine antice pallido diaphano.*" (Long. $2\frac{1}{4}$ lin.) *Mas.*

C. testacea, Desv., et speciebus cognatis (sc. *pallidicorne*, Desv., *ne-morali*, &c.) gracilior, fronte angustiore, pedibus multo longioribus et rarius setigeris. Desvoidio Palusia audiret.

"Frons vittâ atrâ postice bifurcâ. Facies pallescens. Antennæ facie breviores, flavæ, articulo 3° pallidiore oblongo obtuso, aristæ subtiliter villosulæ. Thorax cæsius, absque vittis. Abdomen compressum, segmentis 2 anticis pallido-diaphanis lineâ dorsali ferruginosâ. Pedes elongati flavi. Tarsi ob-

scuriores extrorsum fuscæ. Tibiæ anteriores setis nullis supra præapicalem parvam, posticæ unicâ mediâ. Alæ hyalinæ exunguiculatæ, nervis obscurè flavescentes squamæ albidæ. Halteres flavi."—*Hal. in litteris*.

This is from the same locality mentioned for the *Limnobia* (or *Idiocera*?) *sex-guttata*, viz. Cosmore common, Glanville's Wootton, and New Forest, middle of June and beginning of July. Mr. Haliday at first thought it new and named it *albicornis*, but as Meigen has one so named he thinks it may be as above; it varies however from it in size.

I sent Mr. Haliday a pair of *Limnobia* (or *Idioptera*?) allied to *marmorata*, which I take only in one locality near this part; and as they agree in size and markings, I fancied they might be distinct. Mr. H. has also taken it in Ireland, and thought the same *formerly*; but having observed *marmorata* to vary much, and not being able to lay hold of any *tangible* character, he has come to a very different conclusion; he formerly named it *fasciata*? (which Wiedman has changed to *pulchella*), and asks me how it agrees with the *I. fasciata* I had from Mr. Wailes, taken in the lake district, which has a *distinct* fascia, which the other has not. Mr. Haliday has likewise a third species, the *I. trimaculata*, Zett., taken near Belfast. I also sent him a pair of *HEMERODROMIA*, which he decidedly says are only a *var.* of *H. monostigma*, although in size and colour they closely resemble *H. mantispa*; but the nerves of the wings at once remove them from that division.

I have lately had sent to me from my liberal correspondent Mr. Edleston of Manchester, a *Geometra* ♂ (so like *Cidaria badiata*, 930, 2 of Curtis's Guide, that I can see *no* difference), taken on the moors in *September* with an apterous female (also sent) which is new to me. *G. badiata* has a winged ♀ and flies in March and April.

I have an Hermaphrodite *Dilophus vulgaris*, one (♂) wing white and the other (♀) black: the size of the white side is much smaller, and the same half-side of body is also smaller in proportion. I have also an hermaphrodite *Ægeria ichneumoniformis*, Brit. Ent., which on one side has the antenna ciliated, and on the other plain like the ♀.

Glanville's Wootton, Jan. 1, 1842.

LII.—On *Mnium annotinum* of *Linnæus*. By EDWARD FORSTER, Esq., V.P.L.S.

To Richard Taylor, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

IT sometimes happens that a plant well known formerly is now forgotten. This is the case with *Mnium annotinum* of Linnæus, one of the most remarkable among the mosses; yet it has been totally neglected or badly understood, though fifty years since, no cryptogamist had any doubts concerning it. Difficult indeed it is to account for the present ignorance of this *Bryum*, unless it arose from the plate 1862 in the 28th



Dale, J C. 1842. "Descriptions, &c. of a few rare and undescribed species of British Diptera, principally from the collection of J.C. Dale, Esq., M.A., F.L.S., &c." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 8, 430–433.

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