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XIII.—*Description of a new Lepidopterous Insect belonging to the genus*
Thaumantis.—By J. WOOD-MASON.

(With Plate XII.)

Besides the fine and beautiful insect described below, there are represented in the Zoological collections formed by Mr. Ossian Limborg and staff in Upper Tenasserim during the months of December, 1876 and January, February, March, and April 1877, 225 other species of *Lepidoptera*, partly butterflies, 50 to 60 of which are considered to be undescribed, and several of which are referred to new genera, by Mr. F. Moore, who has worked out the whole collection and written a paper upon it which will shortly be published and illustrated by three or four coloured plates in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London.

LEPIDOPTERA.

Fam. MORPHIDÆ.

THAUMANTIS LOUISA.

Th. louisa, Wood-Mason, P. A. S. B., July 1877, p. 163.

♂ *Th. alis supra albis, anticis dimidio basali, posticis partibus duabus basalibus lætissime et purissime fulvis; singulis, ut in Th. howqua, fasciâ submarginali lunularum cum maculis hastiformibus coalitarum saturatissimè violaceo-fusca, ornatis; lunulis maculisque alarum posticarum valdè majoribus: alis infra luteo-fulvis, anticarum parte media sola alba luteo vix tincta; strigis quatuor sinuatis, duabus basalibus saturate brunneis, alterisque duabus submarginalibus obsoletis et tantum ad angulum analem brunneo-coloratis; anticarum ocellis omnibus (5) obsoletis, posticarum au-*

tem duobus (intermediis tribus obsoletis) rufis, pupilla alba, iride tenui nigra.

Expans. alarum antic. unc. 5 lin. 3.

Habitat in Tenasserim in montibus "Taoo," dictis ad alt. 3—6000 ped.; O. Limborg detexit.

This fine and distinct species belongs to the same division of the genus as *Th. camadeva*, *Th. nourmahal*, *Th. cambodia*, and *Th. howqua*, to the last of which it is most nearly related, but from which it differs in having the upper surface of the wings white and fulvous instead of fulvous throughout, and in having five spots, the red rings of the ocelli, on the under-surface of the fore wings, and only two well-developed ocelli on the hinder wings, instead of three and five ocelli respectively.

Both the specimens obtained are males and each is furnished, like the same are in all the allied species and in some at least of those belonging to the other section of the genus, with a tuft of erectile hairs situated on the upper surface of each hinder wing near the base of the organ. Dr. Fritz Müller has recently communicated to the Entomological Society of London a valuable paper in which the tufts of hairs and the glandular patches he has discovered on different parts of the body in the males of many Brazilian *Lepidoptera* are considered to be odoriferous organs serving, in all probability, to attract the females. In the species of *Thaumantis* the tufts by their erection probably serve to scatter a scented secretion poured out by skin-glands at their base; and I hope that some one of the three gentlemen (Major Badgley and Messrs. Peal and Mandelli) who are located in districts in or near to which two of the species* (*Th. camadeva* and *Th. diores*) abound, will before long examine living specimens of the male of one or the other of these species so as to be able to tell us whether these structures are odoriferous or not. The accompanying plate is from a characteristic coloured drawing of the typical specimen (presented by me to the Oxford Museum) by Professor Westwood, Hope Professor of Zoology in the University of Oxford.

* Short descriptions, by the aid of which and of that of the accompanying illustration any one ought to be able to recognize these two species, are subjoined:—

Th. camadeva, has the fore wings above white tinged with leaden blue, brown at the base, and with a submarginal band of blotches and another of lunules fuscous; the hinder wings fuscous brown at base and with a band of leaden white lunules behind the middle; and five red ocelli, each provided with a black iris-like ring, on the under surface of each of the four wings. The expanse of the fore wings is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The species is well-figured by Westwood in his 'Cabinet of Oriental Entomology,' pl. iv.

Th. diores belongs to the other section of the genus: it is to be recognized at a glance by the fuscous black upper surface of its wings, each of which has in the centre a huge band or spot of indescribably brilliant metallic changeable blue; on the fore wings this spot is much paler and less changeable externally, while on the hinder wings it is paler in the centre. Expanse $3\frac{3}{4}$ — $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches.



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THAUMANTIS LOUISA.

Mintern Bro^s imp.



Wood-Mason, James. 1878. "XIII.—Description of a New Lepidopterous Insect Belonging to the Genus *Thaumantis*." *The journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* 47(IV), 175–176.

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