

Explanation of figures.—Fig. 1, apex of abdomen of ♂, from above; fig. 2, ditto, from beneath; fig. 3, ditto, from side; fig. 4, inferior appendage, from side, much enlarged. The base of the inferior appendages (see fig. 2) is usually more or less concealed by hairs, and even in the denuded example from which the figures were made this point could not be satisfactorily made out.

4. *Hydroptila femoralis*, Eaton.—A single ♂ from Algiers (December 7th, 1892).

5. *Hydroptila Maclachlani*, Klapálek.—Two males from the Ruisseau des Singes, near Médéa (July 26th, 1893).

6. *Oxyethira falcata*, Morton.—Four examples from a stream at El Biar, near Algiers (March 2nd, 1893), and one from a stream near Sétif (June 6th, 1893), appear to belong to this species; these are not in very good condition as regards the anal parts.

7. Another bright little insect, without ocelli and with the spur formula of *Oxyethira*, is represented by a single ♂. It is probably a new species, but I do not venture to describe it from the present material. It is labelled "Mirabeau, 5th November, 1892." The penis has a very long tooth or spine near the apex on one side.

8. *Orthotrichia angustella*, McL.—Five examples from the Roumel, above the gorge at Constantine (October 3rd, 1893), appear to belong to this species rather than to *O. Tetensi*, but they are not in very good condition.

Carluke, N. B.:

January 2nd, 1896.

NOTES ON SOME HEMIPTERA-HOMOPTERA, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW SPECIES FROM THE VIENNA MUSEUM.

BY THE REV. CANON W. W. FOWLER, M.A., F.L.S.

CERCOPIDÆ.

The constitution of this Family is still a matter of considerable doubt; the genus *Cercopis*, as understood by Fabricius, had almost a world-wide range, as pointed out by Distant (Trans. Ent. Soc., 1878, p. 173). In 1843 the genus was subdivided into six genera by Amyot and Serville, who restricted the genus *Tomaspis* to species from South and Central America. In 1866 Stål sunk three of Amyot and Serville's genera, *Triecphora*, *Monecphora* and *Sphenorhina*, and placed them all under *Tomaspis*, thus extending the range of the latter genus to the Old as well as the New World. Distant (*l. c.*, p. 178) agrees with Stål in suppressing *Triecphora* and *Monecphora*, but prefers to recognise *Sphenorhina* on the ground that it seems so well marked a genus, and one so easily recognised, that it is at least convenient to retain it; the sole distinction, however, of this genus, as given by Amyot and Serville, is that it has the front laterally compressed, "avec

une forte carène en forme de coin plus ou moins aigu et dilaté" (*Hémiptères*, p. 562), whereas in *Monecphora* it is not compressed, and has only a feeble carina, and in *Triecphora* it is furnished with three raised lines or carinæ. At best the character given for *Sphenorhina* is a weak one, generically considered, and besides this it is not always strongly marked, and somewhat intermediate examples occur; the facies of the species differs considerably, some being elongate and parallel, and others short and ovate; the shape, however, is by no means associated with the carination and compression of the front, as the most similar species in appearance differ in this point; unless, therefore, we allow undue weight to geographical distribution, we can hardly, in the present state of our knowledge, do anything else but follow Stål, and include the bulk of the *Cercopidæ* under *Tomaspis*.

The three following species of *Tomaspis* are from a portion of the Vienna Museum collection, which has been kindly lent me by Dr. Ganglbauer and Herr Handlirsch.

TOMASPIS (MONECPHORA) PICATA, n. sp.

Elongata, angusta, parallela, coriacea, fronte testaceâ, vertice nigro, antice utrinque testaceo, pronoto scutelloque nigris, illo basi sinuatâ, maculâ antice utrinque, et margine anteriori anguste testaceis, hoc excavato postice acute producto; tegminibus nigris parte basali dimidiâ maculâque ante apicem albidis, apicibus regulariter rotundatis; pedibus testaceis, tibiis tarsisque posticis nigris, pectore infuscato, abdomine ad partem testaceo, apice nigricanti vel toto nigro.

Hab.: New Granada, *Nolcken* (Vienna Museum Collection).

var. lugubris—differt margine anteriori pronoti haud testaceo, tegminibusque, maculis apicalibus exceptis, totis nigris.

Elongate, narrow and parallel, black, with the front, and a spot on each side of the anterior part of the pronotum, testaceous, and the elytra with the basal half, except just at shoulders, and a spot just before apex, whitish; the legs are testaceous, except the posterior tibiæ and tarsi, which are black, and the apex at least of all the tarsi is pitchy; the pronotum has a broad, longitudinal, central furrow, and the scutellum is excavate; the sculpture is very fine throughout, and gives the insect a dull appearance.

Long., 13 mm., lat., 5 mm.

The variety differs in not having the anterior margin of the pronotum testaceous, and in the fact that the tegmina are entirely black with the exception of the distinct whitish spot just before apex; it is also rather smaller.

Long., 12 mm., lat., 4 mm.

TOMASPIS (MONECPHORA) NOLCKENI, n. sp.

Elongata, parallela, nigra, tegminibus testaceis, sub-pellucidis, apicibus

late nigris, margine exteriori clavi, maculâ elongatâ utrinque ad latera, et vitta ante nigrum apicem tegminum rufo-flavis, pronoto rugose sed haud profunde punctato, elytris dense haud fortiter punctatis, corpore subtus pedibusque piceis.

Elongate and parallel, with the head and pronotum black, and the elytra semi-transparent, of a brownish-testaceous colour, with the apices broadly black, and a straight orange band immediately above the black colour, a small space at margins between the orange and black portions being testaceous; the exterior margin of the clavus and an elongate spot at margins are also orange, but the colour is not as bright as that of the subapical vitta; the pronotum is rugosely but not deeply punctured, and the scutellum is somewhat excavate; the tegmina are very closely punctured, particularly towards apex; under-side and legs pitchy.

Long., 9 mm., lat., $3\frac{1}{2}$ –4 mm.

Hab.: New Granada, *Nolcken* (Vienna Museum Collection).

TOMASPIS (SPHENORHINA) CRUX-MINOR, *n. sp.*

Ovalis, nigra nitida, tegminibus quatuor magnis maculis late miniatis, tota tegmina, marginibus, suturâ, vittâque transversâ centrali exceptis, obtinentibus, capite triangulariter producto, excavato; pronoto nitido, ad medium latissimo, angustato, antice utrinque late impresso, sub-fortiter remotius punctato; scutello excavato, postice obtuso; tegminibus densissime subrugose punctatis, coriaceis; pedibus piceis.

Small, oval, shining black, with the tegmina bright scarlet, except the margins, suture, and a broad transverse central line, which are black; the head is triangular, with a raised line in the middle and excavate at sides; pronotum hexagonal, with the three front sides of the hexagon margined, broadest in middle, base nearly straight, surface very shining, rather strongly and distinctly punctured; scutellum excavate, obtuse behind; tegmina very closely sculptured, coriaceous; legs pitchy.

Long., 8 mm., lat., $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab.: New Granada, *Nolcken* (Vienna Museum Collection).

Among the other *Cercopidæ* in the portion of the collection sent to me are four varieties of the fine *Cercopis* (*Sphenorhina*) *circulata*, Guér.; in two of these the darker colour is replaced by light testaceous, in one the colour is a sort of orange and the markings are irregular, and the fourth is almost entirely black; there is also a variety of *Tomaspis* (*Monecphora*) *inca* with the tegmina not banded, but almost entirely unicolorous scarlet, with the apex and a band at base black; a similar variety is contained in the British Museum Collection.

ISSIDÆ.

The following species belongs, apparently, to the genus *Neæthus*, Stål, the type of which is *N. vitripennis*, which was formerly referred to the genus *Hysteropterum*. The genus is distinguished by having the

thorax truncate at base, the tegmina tectiform and wholly or partially vitreous and transparent, regularly reticulate, and very broadly rounded at apex, the costa dilated and more or less distinctly venose transversely, and by having the radial vein furcate not far from the base; the wings are absent or rudimentary.

NEÆTHUS SEMIVITREUS, *n. sp.*

Parvus, brevis, testaceus, tegminibus fere circularibus, opacis, maculâ latâ centrali irregulariter vitreâ, venis crassis elevatis; clavo ad marginem maculis quibusdam parvis fuscatis.

A small and short species of a testaceous colour, with the tegmina almost semi-circular, opaque, with the margins partly transparent, and with a very large irregular vitreous patch in centre, occupying the greater part of the surface; the venation is much less close and less regular than in *N. vitripennis*, and from the veins proceed very short, incomplete, transverse veins; the clavus has several very small dark spots on its outer edge; the posterior tibiæ are plainly bispinose, and their apical spines are well marked.

Long., 4 mm., lat., 2 mm.

Hab.: California, Signoret's Collection. Two female specimens (Vienna Museum Collection).

Among Signoret's insects I have found a considerable number to which names are attached of which I can find no trace in any publication, and it appears evident that they are merely MS. names; no less than ten species of *Clastoptera* are named in this way. Great confusion arises from the practice of naming species without describing them, and it is obvious that no name should ever be attached to a species before the description is written and ready for the printer; one or two authors have made the confusion much worse by referring in subsequent publications to species which they have in this way named and never described.

The School House, Lincoln:

March, 1896.

Coleoptera at Porlock, Somersetshire.—On February 17th last I arrived at Porlock for a short stay, in search of health—and beetles. The nature of the country seemed very promising, but, after constant and energetic effort during several days with scarcely any good result, I had to pronounce it disappointing. In the woods the ground and trees were thickly covered with moss and lichens, and afforded fair hope of yielding *Carabus intricatus* and other desirable species, but the most persistent search failed to induce anything beyond an occasional *Tachyporus hypnorum* to tumble out upon my nice new sheet of paper. Logs were fairly plentiful and in good condition for working, but bark proved almost as barren as moss. I next tried water—the running streams and the ditches near the shore—but could



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