

its point of union a projection or short process is directed upwards; the keel of the *sternum* is here very ample. These are birds not so much of rapid as of untiring powers of flight, which, unlike that of the impetuous *Falcon*, is sweeping and majestic. In the *Falconidæ* the *os furcatum*, though very strong, does not at all approach to the form of a triangle, as in the birds alluded to, but describes a figure not unlike that of a horse-shoe, and a considerable space intervenes between it and the keel of the *sternum*."

A Paper was read, entitled, "Characters and Descriptions of a new Genus of the Family *Melolonthidæ*: by John Curtis, Esq., F.L.S., &c."

In a collection of *Insects* recently received by the author from Lima is contained a beautiful series of the one constituting the type of his proposed new genus

ANCISTROSOMA.

Antennæ capite breviores.

Clypeus, in mare præsertim, emarginatus.

Thorax acutè marginatus, hexagonus; dente brevi in baseos medio armatus.

Pedes longissimi, robusti.

The stoutness of its legs and the sharp lateral edges of its *thorax* distinguish *Ancistrosoma* from all the neighbouring genera: the male is further characterized by an acute, rather long, and slightly curved spine near the base of the *abdomen* beneath. Its natural situation is probably between *Diphucephala*, Dej., the males of which have a bilobed *clypeus*, and *Macrodactylus*, Latr., which is very similar to it in habit, and has also very long legs; but these in *Macrodactylus* are slender, while in *Ancistrosoma* they are robust. Neither *Diphucephala* nor *Macrodactylus* possesses the little tooth at the base of the *thorax* lapping over the *scutellum*, a structure which is, however, met with in *Ceraspis* as well as in *Ancistrosoma*; but in *Ceraspis*, independently of the other differential characters, the *antennæ* and club are long.

ANCISTROSOMA KLUGII. *Anc. ferrugineum*, suprâ piceo-nigrum; *thoracis* margine elytrorumque strigis sex albidis.

Long. maris 12 lin.; fœminæ plerumque minor.

Hab. in *Mimosæ* floribus apud Huanuco prope Lima, Peruvîæ.

Of the three streaks on each of the *elytra*, the sutural one does not reach so far as the base, the second extends neither to the base nor to the tip, and the outer one is still shorter: they consist of broad punctured furrows, white with short hairs.

The cocoon of the *pupa* is ovate, hard, and in texture somewhat like that of *Trichiosoma Lucorum*, Leach; its *operculum* is semiorbicular, with a broad hinge and narrow rim: the shell of the *pupa* is similar to that of other *Melolonthidæ*.

Mr. Curtis describes in great detail the several parts of this *In-*

sect, and illustrates them by an extensive series of drawings, which were exhibited; as were also specimens of the *Insect* itself.

Mr. Curtis also communicated a Paper "On a species of *Moth* found inhabiting the *Galls* of a Plant, near Monte Video." The galls in question were collected by Mr. Earle (who accompanied Captain Fitzroy in H. M. S. Beagle,) in the month of December, about fifteen miles westward of the town, on a sort of underwood shrub, which Mr. David Don, on the examination of the small branches, and of a single leaf, thinks may probably be a species of *Celastrus*. Of the figures in illustration of the paper exhibited to the Meeting, one represents a branch supporting two of the galls, which are sometimes clustered five or six together. They arise where the attachment of leaves or flowers is indicated, and are therefore most probably produced by the transformation of the buds themselves, acted on by the *stimulus* of the insect secretions. On the side of each gall is a round aperture, with an *operculum* accurately fitted to it, which may easily be picked out with the point of a penknife. This *operculum* is equally convex on its outer surface with the rest of the gall, and is of the same thickness; but its internal diameter is less than that of its external surface, which forms a broader rim. Around the orifice the margin of the gall is thickened and a little raised. Within each of the entire galls was found a *pupa* attached to the base by its tail, with its head close to the *operculum*; which, it should seem, gives way by a slight expansion or elongation of the *pupa* when just ready to hatch, and the cast skin is left sticking in the passage.

Mr. Curtis observes that he was very much surprised to find on examination that the *pupæ* contained in these galls belonged not to the *Hymenoptera* but to the *Lepidopterous* order; an occurrence hitherto almost unprecedented. The characters of the *Insect*, as far as could be detected from the imperfect state in which it was found, are as follows:

CECIDOSES.

Caput parvum.

Antennæ corpus longitudine æquantes, graciles, ciliatæ, articulis elongatis numerosis: in capitis vertice prope oculos insertæ.

Thorax squamulis depressis vestitus.

Abdomen subrobustum, ovato-conicum.

Pedes longi; *tibiis* anticis spinâ prope apicem munitis, intermediis posticisque ad apicem calcaratis, his densè squamulatis et in medio præterea bi-spinosis; *tarsis* 5-articulatis, articulo basali longissimo; *unguibus pulvillisque* minutis.

Alæ sublanceolatæ.

CECIDOSES EREMITA. *Cec. cinereus*; *alis anticis saturatè brunneo maculatis, densè ciliatis; posticis albidis.*

Hab. prope Monte Video. *Pupa* in gallis *Celastris*? abscondita.

From the stoutness of the body Mr. Curtis is inclined to refer the



Curtis, John. 1835. "Characters and Description of a New Genus of Melolonthidae (Ancistrosoma)." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 3, 18–19.

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