

rather thickly and extremely delicately punctured, the margins reflexed.

Hab. Java (*J. C. Bowring, Esq.*).

Inopeplus biguttatus.

Piceus, nitidissimus; capite sat crebre subtiliter punctulato; thorace basi bene angulato, sat crebre subtilissime punctulato, angulis posticis distinctis; elytris discrete subtilissime punctulatis, singulis macula quadrata notatis.

Long. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Head about twice as broad as long, with a longitudinal impressed mesial line, finely and rather closely punctured. Thorax a little broader than the head, rather more than twice as broad as long, very obliquely narrowed behind, finely and moderately closely punctured; the sides for the anterior third rounded, thence to near the base very oblique, but at the extreme base forming with the base a right angle. Elytra at the base as broad as the thorax, much wider behind, a little longer than the head and thorax together, irregularly, finely, and not very thickly punctured; each elytron with a transverse quadrate pale yellow spot on the disk. Abdomen rather thickly and extremely delicately punctured. Antennæ nearly black, distinctly longer than the head and thorax together.

Hab. Java (*J. C. Bowring, Esq.*).

XXVI.—*On Mammals and Reptiles from Johanna, Comoro Islands.* By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S., Keeper of the Department of Zoology, British Museum.

THE British Museum has received from Mr. C. E. Bewsher a small collection of mammals and reptiles made by him during a sojourn of six weeks in Johanna. The MAMMALS found by him were previously known to occur in the island, and belong to four species, viz.:—*Lemur anjuanensis*, Geoffr.; *Pteropus Edwardsii*, Geoffr.*; *Centetes ecaudatus*; and *Mus musculus*.

Lemur anjuanensis.

The Lemur of the island of Johanna has been described by Geoffroy St.-Hilaire, in 'Annales du Muséum,' vol. xix.

* *Pteropus Livingstonii* (Gray) is a second species occurring in Johanna. According to a communication from Dr. Hildebrandt the following species occur also in Johanna—*Miniopterus scotinus*, *Nyctinomus pumilus*, *Cynonycteris* sp., *Crocidura albicauda*, and *Viverra Schlegelii*.

p. 161, under the name of *Lemur anjuanensis*, in the following terms:—"Pelage roux-vif en dessus, gris-roux sur les membres : les parties antérieures du tronc cendrées."

This diagnosis can be applied to more than one species of *Lemur*; and therefore it is all the more satisfactory to find more definite details in Peters's 'Reise nach Mossambique,' p. 21, who obtained, during his visit to the island, a female and a young specimen. His description agrees entirely with a specimen of the same sex obtained by Mr. Bewsher. However, I am able to supply additional information on the male sex, of which three specimens are before me.

The specimen named *Lemur anjuanensis* by John Edward Gray, in P. Z. S. 1863, p. 139, and in the 'Catalogue of Monkeys,' p. 75, is a very different species, seemingly more allied to *Lemur mayottensis* of Schlegel, but of unknown origin.

It will be observed that Schlegel, in his recent Monograph of *Simiæ*, refers *mayottensis*, as well as *anjuanensis*, to *Lemur collaris* from Madagascar.

Our three males are exactly alike: the face before the eyes is white, the nose blackish, the forehead with mixed black and whitish hairs; the side of the throat below the eye, and the throat itself, bright brownish red; crown, back, outer side of the legs, and the greater part of the tail grey, with a not very perceptible rufous tinge on the rump; chest and abdomen greyish, with a rufous tinge; inner side of the legs with scarcely any white; hands and feet grey (in one specimen whitish); the terminal third or fourth of the tail blackish.

The female has the forehead and the face of a more decided black colour, only the nose before the eyes being whitish. Sides of the throat and the throat itself white, with a greyish collar just before the chest. Abdomen with a rufous tinge; præanal region chestnut-brown. Upper parts, legs, and tail as in the male.

Measurements.

	Male. in.	Female. in.
Length from the end of the nose to the root of the tail	15	14½
Tail	19½	18½
Distance from the end of the nose to the ear	2¾	2¾
Sole of fore foot, including fourth finger . . .	2	2
Length from the heel to the end of the fourth toe	3½	3½

Mr. Bewsher writes that this species is very wild, and that he could not succeed in taming one of the four specimens kept by him in captivity.

Centetes ecaudatus.

That old specimens, presumably males, have the skull, and more especially the fore part of the snout, developed in an extraordinary manner is a fact which has been previously ascertained from Madagascar examples. Thus, the British Museum possesses, among others, an example from Vohima, which measures about 10 inches from the tip of the snout to the extremity of the rump, its skull being not less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. Specimens from Johanna grow to a still larger size, individuals 16 inches in length being apparently not scarce. As far as I can judge from these dried specimens, their skull cannot be less than 5 inches in length. The proportions between the head and the body seem, therefore, to be subject to great variation; and in no other respect do the Johanna individuals differ from those obtained in Madagascar or Mauritius. The young are banded in the same manner; and older ones have sometimes a whitish, sometimes a blackish crest of prolonged hairs along the median line of the hinder part of the back.

Of the REPTILES collected by Mr. Bewsher, *Euprepes comorensis* (Ptrs.), *Phelsuma cepedianum* (Cuv.), and *Hemidactylus platycephalus* (Ptrs.) were previously known to occur in the island. The second is common throughout Madagascar and the Mascarenes; and the third has been probably imported from the mainland.

New to its fauna are:—an *Eremias*, of which there is only one example, too young to be specifically determined; an undescribed Phyllodactyline Gecko, *Parædura sancti johannis*; *Typhlops pammeces* (Gthr.), hitherto known from Southern India only; and an undescribed Lycodont snake, *Lycodryas sancti johannis*.

I subjoin the descriptions of the new species:—

PARÆDURA, g. n. Geckotid.

This genus is allied to *Ædura* and *Discodactylus*; from the former it differs by its lepidosis, from the latter by the scutellation of the toes. Toes, as in *Phyllodactylus*, rather slender, each with a pair of dilated terminal lamellæ, between which the claw is lodged; each toe with a *double* series of plates beneath in its whole length. Claws five in front and behind. Upper parts covered with numerous large keeled tubercles, which are serially arranged, leaving but little space for the finer granulation. Tail cylindrical, tapering, with

transverse series of larger tubercles on its back. Underside with small imbricate scales. Neither præanal nor femoral pores.

Parædura sancti johannis.

Limbs rather slender. Head large, depressed, with the snout of moderate length. A series of large tubercles along the superciliary margin and across the temple. A pair of chin-shields, which are much longer than broad. Ear-opening vertical, narrow. Brownish, marbled with darker; a black spot on the occiput. Lower parts whitish.

A single specimen was obtained, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, of which the tail takes $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; distance from the snout to the ear-opening $8\frac{1}{2}$ lines; length of fore leg 11 lines; length of hind leg 15 lines.

LYCODRYAS, g. n. Lycodont.

Body slender and compressed, with the abdomen angular on the sides. Scales smooth, in nineteen rows, those of the back not conspicuously enlarged. Anal bifid; subcaudals bifid (partly simple). Eye with vertical pupil. Two nasals, the nostrils in the anterior; one loreal, not reaching the orbit. Anterior maxillary and palatine teeth longest, followed by other long teeth, which gradually decrease in length.

This genus is allied to *Hormonotus* and *Tetragonosoma*, but differs from the former in the scutellation of the side of the head, and the absence of large dorsal scales; from the latter also in the scutellation of the head, and, besides, in the dentition.

Lycodryas sancti johannis.

Head depressed, of moderate length, with rather broad snout, and very distinct from the very slender neck. Body and tail very slender, with an obtuse keel on each side of the abdomen. Eye of moderate size, with vertical pupil. Rostral broad, low, not extending to the upper surface of the snout. Anterior frontals about one third the size of the posterior. Vertical broad, but longer than broad, with parallel lateral edges. Occipitals pointed behind. Two small nasals, the anterior pierced by the nostril. Loreal long. Præorbital broadly in contact with the vertical. Three postoculars. Nine upper labials, the fourth and fifth and sometimes the third entering into the orbit; the sixth is small and triangular, in contact with the lower postorbital; the three posterior are low. Temporal scales rather irregular and numerous.

Scales in nineteen rows, smooth. Ventrals 261. Anal bifid; the twenty-three anterior subcaudals are simple, and followed by about eighty paired ones.

Upper parts reddish brown, irregularly mottled with darker. Lower parts yellowish, finely mottled with blackish.

The single specimen is 31 inches long, of which the tail takes 7 inches.

XXVII.—*Notes on the Lepidoptera of St. Helena, with Descriptions of new Species.* By Mrs. T. VERNON WOLLASTON.

ALTHOUGH it is generally admitted that islands are, without doubt, for the most part, more unproductive (even in proportion) than continents, and that the smaller the area the less favourable will it be for the development of insect life, yet, perhaps, this very fact imparts to these restricted faunas a greater degree of interest than they would otherwise possess. Especially is this the case in St. Helena (more so even than in the other Atlantic islands which have been most carefully searched), not only from the fact of its greater remoteness from other land, which attaches to it an importance which the student of zoological geography cannot fail at once to recognize, but likewise on account of its botany, which resembles no other in the peculiarity of its indigenous vegetation. And as there appear to be few facts in entomology more extensively true than that the most peculiar insects of a region are usually found either to be dependent on or to inhabit the same area as its most peculiar plants, it may therefore, perhaps, be as well, before describing the Lepidoptera, just to take a brief glance at the general features of the flora of St. Helena. When first discovered, it is stated that the island was entirely covered with forests, the trees drooping over the tremendous precipices that overhang the sea. Now, however, it is sadly altered, and, with very few exceptions, it is only the loftiest and well-nigh inaccessible summits of the great central ridge that still retain the remains of the aboriginal vegetation. Near to the coast the rough lava is quite bare, and presents a most forbidding aspect to the stranger as he approaches it from the sea; nor will he, if a naturalist, be much more satisfied as he rides into the interior through districts of the most unmistakably introduced vegetation. Supposing it to be in the summer time, the stranger will probably be struck (as we were) by the picturesque groups of "hay-



Günther, Albert C. L. G. 1879. "On mammals and reptiles from Johanna, Comoro Islands." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 3, 215–219.

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