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A new genus and species of crustacea

James Eights

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MISCELLANEOUS.

EUCRATEA CHELATA.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Tynemouth, Northumberland, March 1853.

GENTLEMEN,—In the March Number of the Annals I perceive that the Rev. T. Hincks has had the good fortune to be the first to announce the discovery of external ovaries on *Eucratea chelata*.

While on a visit to Weymouth in May 1849, I picked up several specimens of that very beautiful zoophyte, with some peculiarly-shaped cells, which, with the aid of Dr. A. H. Hassall, I then ascertained to be ovarian vesicles.

I have since then from time to time delayed publishing that interesting fact, and my attention having been only within the last month recalled to the subject, by observing, in the Rev. D. Landsborough's 'Popular History of British Zoophytes,' that ovaries had been recently found on two other members of the family Eucratiadæ, I then resolved to send you a notice of the result of my observations on *Eucratea chelata*, and, much to my dismay, found that I had been forestalled by the Rev. T. Hincks.

Trusting, however, that further information on this point will be acceptable to some of your readers, I have great pleasure in forwarding to you a rough drawing of a specimen of *Eucratea chelata* in my possession from Weymouth, showing front and side views of the aperture of the ovary, which is always on the same side of the ovary, facing the aperture of the cell from which it springs. The aperture of the upper part of the ovary is on the inner side of the somewhat globular capsule, nearly semicircular, with a slight projecting process on either side near to its junction with that of the lower part, which exactly corresponds with the oblique subterminal aperture of the polype cell.

I am, Gentlemen, yours truly,

JOHN COPPIN.

A new Genus and Species of Crustacea. By JAMES EIGHTS.

This Antarctic species, from the New South Shetlands, belongs to the *Idotea* family. It is remarkable for its gigantic size, the length being $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and the breadth across the middle $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch. It is also peculiar in having the six anterior legs short and monodactyle or anchoral, while the eight posterior are long, stout, triangulate, spinose, and end in a short claw. Superior antennæ short, half the inferior in length, having a very short flagellum; inferior pair with a multiarticulate flagellum as long as the basal portion. Form of body oblong-ovate. Abdomen 5-jointed, the last segment subtriangular with sinuato-arcuate sides, and subcarinate longitudinally along

the middle above. Thorax also somewhat carinate along the middle of the back, and surface of segments sculptured: mandibles without palpi. The species is named by Dr. Eights, *Glyptonotus antarcticus*. The paper is accompanied by two handsome plates, representing a dorsal and ventral view of this fine species, and giving a separate view of the antennæ.—*Trans. Albany Inst.*

On the Coleopterous Insects of the genus Cebrio.

By M. GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE.

The insect which forms the subject of these observations was described by Fabricius under the name of *Cistela gigas* in 1787; in 1790 it was made the type of the genus *Cebrio* by Olivier. The great difference existing in the structure of the antennæ between the males and the females induced Latreille in some of his earlier works to form a new genus with the latter, under the name of *Hammonia*; Leach also founded a genus for the reception of the females, which he called *Tibesia*.

In 1812 M. Guérin-Ménéville observed, at Toulon, an instance of copulation between two insects, one belonging to the genus *Cebrio* and the other to *Hammonia*. The same discovery was also made by M. de Cérisy at about the same time. These facts, showing the insects to belong to the same species, were communicated to Latreille, to whom M. de Cérisy promised to make every endeavour to ascertain their metamorphoses, and thus render their natural history complete. In this he succeeded last year; but before giving his own account of his discovery, it may be as well to describe in a few words the known peculiarities of the habits of the perfect insect.

The *Cebriones* have hitherto only been met with in the perfect state. They fly in great numbers during the heavy autumnal rains, seeking the females, which however they can never see, as these never quit the earth; the males become sensible of the presence of the female and scratch the earth, so as to lay bare the extremity of her abdomen, when impregnation takes place. It is by going to places where several males are seen to alight, that the female, which attracts them in this manner, is found. Since 1812 these peculiarities have been the subject of observation both with M. Guérin-Ménéville and M. de Cérisy, who have published notices connected with them in the 'Annales de la Soc. Ent. de France' and in the 'Revue de Zoologie'; but the larva has only just been discovered by M. de Cérisy.

He had long suspected that a yellow larva, of a cylindrical form and very hard, which he found in the earth at all seasons in places frequented every year by the *Cebriones*, might be the first state of these insects, but all his attempts to rear them proved abortive.

"This year," he says, "my perseverance obtained full success; I was fortunate enough to find a larva of larger size than usual, which had already begun to form a cavity which appeared to be intended for its metamorphosis. I took the entire mass of earth, which was pressed into a box made on purpose; on the 22nd of