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On the genus *Saccolpteryx* of Illiger

J.E. Gray

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gricanti-æneis dentibus validis, tarsis luteis (♀). Long. corp. lin. $1\frac{1}{2}$.—Hab. King George's Sound. D. Dr. J. Hooker. Mus. Westwood.

Sp. 8. Palmon melleus, Westw. *Lætè aurato-viridis, punctatissimus; abdomine melleo; antennis crassis, melleis, apice fuscis; pedibus melleis, coxis posticis, basi viridibus, spinisque femorum posticorum nigris* (♂). Long. corp. ferè lin. 2.—Hab. in ovis Mantidis Brasilæ. D. Klug. Mus. Westwood.

Subgenus novum PACHYTOMUS, Westw.

Palmoni congruit nisi abdomine maris plano depresso-elongato, spinis femorum posticorum tantum 4, articulo basali tarsorum omnium dilatato, necnon æconomid, habitanti in ficibus more Blastophagarum.

Sp. 1. Pachytomus Klugianus, Westw. *Cupreo-æneus, tenuissimè punctatissimus; antennis basi tantum luteis; abdomine piceo-fulvo apice nigricanti; pedibus 4 anticis pallide flavescensibus, posticis piceis, geniculis luteis*. Long. corp. lin. $1\frac{1}{2}$.—Hab. in ficibus Ægypti. D. Klug. Mus. Westwood.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ON THE GENUS SACCOPTERYX OF ILLIGER.

SCHREBER, in his work on Mammalia, described and figured a bat from Surinam under the name of *Vespertilio lepturus*, remarkable for having on the end of the fore-arm-bone nearest the elbow a peculiar sac. Illiger, from the description (for it does not appear that he ever saw a specimen of the species), as was his habit, formed for this bat a genus which he called *Sacopteryx*. Geoffroy, who had never seen the species, referred it with doubt to his genus *Taphozous*, which is peculiar to the old world; and Temminck has followed him, and appears to doubt the accuracy of Schreber's description and figure. Among a most interesting collection of bats, birds and other animals lately sent to the British Museum (collected in various parts of the Brazils by the late Mr. Graham, who with his family was so distressingly lost at Para, just as he was returning home with his very extensive collections and notes elucidating their habits), are two specimens which exactly agree with Schreber's figure. The pouches are about half an inch long, and are convex and bag-like on the lower side of the fore-arm-bone, a short distance from the elbow-joint; they have a slit-like opening on the upper edge of the upper side of the same bone about half an inch long, and the inner surface of the bag is plaited, and appears to secrete an unctuous fluid. From the side of the neck there is a rather thick band which extends to the middle of the bag, and there is another lesser one from the other side of the bag to the edge of the membrane on the front of the wing.

I may observe that *Sacopteryx* is more nearly allied to *Embalonura* than *Taphozous*, and that Cuvier (Règ. Anim. i. 121) considers the existence of this bag in the wing as one of the characters of *Taphozous*; for he observes, " Un petit prolongement de la membrane

de leur ailes forme une sorte de pouche près du carpe" (should be elbow). "C'est ce qui avait fait nommer par Illiger *Saccopteryx*, celui de ces genres qui comprend les Taphiens."

J. E. GRAY.

ON THE OFFICINAL SPECIES OF PEPPER. By M. MIQUEL.

Miquel, like Jussieu, De Candolle and Endlicher, places the *Piperaceæ* among the Dicotyledons, as the embryo in germination exhibits two regular seed-lobes, which are uncommonly small, and so difficult to discover while the embryo in the ripe seed is enclosed in the permanent embryo-sac, half sunk in the apex of the albumen, that very recently this was regarded as the only cotyledon.

The *Piperaceæ* belong to the imperfect Dicotyledons, and stand best among Endlicher's *Iuliflores*, somewhere near the *Betulaceæ*, and in the vicinity of the *Urticaceæ*, with which indeed Jussieu united them. The family is evidently quite tropical, the species being dispersed universally over the torrid zone of the earth; the individuals are most abundant in the hot parts of America, and proportionally rare in tropical Africa. The American are almost all generically, or, with the exception of one truly cosmopolitan species, at least specifically different from those of the Old World.

Miquel divides the *Piperaceæ* into two tribes, the first of which, *Piperomiæ*, comprehends the herbaceous with axillary catkins, androgynous flowers and anthers one-celled in dehiscence. They are, with very few exceptions, American, and none are employed officinally.

The second tribe, *Pipereæ*, contains the shrubby and arborescent species. Their catkins are situated opposite the leaves; flowers mostly diœcious, the female exhibiting several distinct stigmas, the males with two-celled anthers. To the first division, characterized by permanent stipulæ and numerous sessile catkins, belong the genus *Pothomorphe*, Miq., of which many species, especially *Pothomorphe umbellata*, Miq., have pungent aromatic roots, which, under the name of *Caapeba*, are used in Brazil as stomachics and sudorifics.

The root of *Macropiper methysticum*, Miq., possesses similar qualities. It is used in the South Sea islands in the preparation of an intoxicating drink (highly pernicious in its effects), called *Awa* or *Kawa*, and has lately been made use of in medicine in England under the name of *Radix Awæ*.

Of the true *Pipereæ*, which are separated from the preceding division by deciduous stipulæ and solitary catkins, two genera in this first volume are to be noticed here:—*Chavica*, Miq. and *Cu-beba*, Miq.

I. Genus *Chavica*, Miq.—Flowers diœcious. Bracts of the male like those of the female catkins, shortly stalked, almost four-angled, shield-shaped. ♂ Stamens 2, with two-celled anthers. ♀ Style very short or wanting. In the latter case the 3–6 thick stigmas are immediately sessile on the ovate ovary. The berries unite with the permanent bractæ and the thickened axis of the catkins into a fleshy fusiform fruit. Seeds longish or almost lenticular, with scaly,