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V.—On the Colcopterous Group “Heptaphyllini” of De Borre

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rather strong, punctures. The ridge in front of the ocelli is very strong, forming a double arch, without any prominent lateral eminences. The deep space under this ridge is filled with pollen, for what reason I do not know. In *morio* the ridge is not so strong and in the middle it sends downwards a process which encloses the middle ocellus, which is not at all the case in *nautilana*. There is a tuft of dark reddish hair at the apex of the abdomen, almost hidden amongst the black. Hind tibiae with two teeth (side by side) on the middle of the outer side.

Hab. Rio Nautla, in the neighbourhood of San Rafael, State of Vera Cruz, Mexico, March 18. At flowers of plant no. 18 (*C. H. T. Townsend*).

Xylocopa brasilianorum (L.).

Vicinity of San Rafael, Vera Cruz, Mexico, March 18, at flowers of plant no. 18 (*C. H. T. Townsend*).

The hind tibiae have on the outer face an oblique keel ending in two low but broad teeth; the prominence between the antennae is quite large.

Xylocopa colona, Lep.

Vicinity of San Rafael, Vera Cruz, Mexico, ♀ March 23, at flowers of plant no. 21; males March 23 and 30 (*C. H. T. Townsend*).

The female is easily known from *brasilianorum* by its smaller size, more closely punctured abdomen, and shorter third antennal joint. The male, which Smith described as *X. erratica*, has an extremely strong superficial resemblance to *X. collaris*, Lep., from the Khasia Hills, India. The form of male *collaris* which thus resembles *erratica* is the variety mentioned by Bingham (*Hymenop. Brit. India*, p. 543), in which the whole thorax is covered with ochraceous pubescence, and the third abdominal segment is provided with an ochraceous down like the second. This variety, which may be called var. *Binghami*, I have received from Mr. Sladen.

V.—On the Colcopterous Group "Heptaphyllini" of
De Borre. By GILBERT J. ARROW, F.E.S.

IN the monographic Catalogue of the Trogidae, published in 1886 by M. Preudhomme de Borre, that family is divided into five sections, one of which, the Heptaphyllini, was created

for a single species, unknown to the author, but characterized by the possession of tarsi with only four joints, a phenomenon unknown in any other Lamellicorn beetle. Referring to the original description by Friedenreich of this anomalous beetle, in the 'Stettiner entomologische Zeitschrift' for 1883 (p. 375), I was glad to find not only the beetle but also its larva described in detail. Many of the characteristics of both, however, are such that I have no hesitation in rejecting the insect, not only from the Trogidae, but from the Lamellicorn suborder. *Heptaphylla fungicola*, Fried., is a minute beetle found in fungi in Brazil. It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long, and has antennae of 11 joints, of which 7 are lamellate. The right mandible is simple and acutely pointed, while the left is strongly bifid. These, as well as its other structural features, unmistakably identify it with the genus *Rhipidandrus*, Leconte (*Eutomus*, Lacordaire), belonging to the Malacodermatous family Cioidae. The species hitherto placed in this genus range from the United States of America to the northern part of South America, and Friedenreich's insect may be regarded as another species extending this range farther southward. The genus was characterized by Lacordaire under the name of *Eutomus* in 1866; but Leconte's name, although stated by Fleutiaux and Sallé to be of later date, was really published by him in 1862 in part 1 of his 'Classification of the Coleoptera of North America' (p. 236). The claim of the name *Rhipidandrus* over the other two is therefore indisputable. A second genus, *Cherostus*, has been created by Mr. Waterhouse for two Old-World forms very nearly related to the American insects. They have the lamellae of the antennal club much shorter, and all the tibiae are armed with spines at their ends. Lacordaire's species, *Rhipidandrus micrographus*, which was described from northern South America, has been recorded from Guadeloupe and St. Vincent. I have seen no specimens from the former island, but those from the latter, which are in the British Museum, do not agree with Lacordaire's description, all the tibiae having spinose prolongations, while the antennae have the first joint quite short, instead of reaching to the middle of the eye, and the lamellae quite short. It therefore agrees better with *Cherostus*, and I propose to call it

Cherostus cornutus, sp. n.

Breviter cylindricus, piccus, clypeo pedibusque rufis, antennis testaceis, clypeo laevi, nitido, fronte grosse, haud profunde, sed creberrime punctata, medio late impresso, feminae depressione breviter

æqualiter fulvo-hirta, maris clypeo breviter bicornuto, tuberculis duobus minutis intra oculos; prothoraco ubique grosse et densissimo punctato, antice et postice excurvato, angulis anticis obsoletis, posticis obtusis; elytris acute costatis, interstitiis opacis, vix perspicue transverse plicatis.

Long. 4.5 mm.

Hab. St. Vincent (Leeward side); Grenada (Grand Étang, 1900 feet).

This, the largest yet known of these species, was found by Mr. H. H. Smith in Boleti. There is a single female specimen in the Museum of a closely related species from Jamaica which it is perhaps desirable to describe here.

Cherostus jamaicensis, sp. n.

Cylindricus, ferrugineus, antennis testaceis, capito grosse, haud profunde sed creberrime punctato, leviter longitudinaliter impresso, depressione (♀) brevissime fulvo-pilosa, clypeo medio lœvi; prothorace grosse et densissime punctato, antice et postice excurvato, angulis anticis obsoletis, posticis obtusis; elytris acute costatis, interstitiis transverse plicatis.

Long. 3 mm.

Hab. Jamaica (Kingston).

This is a smaller and narrower insect than those before described. The elytral interstices are more rugose and the pubescence upon the head of our specimen is extremely fine.

Yet another species to be placed here is *Xyloborus crenipennis* of Motschulsky, of which the tarsi were erroneously believed by him to be heteromericous. This was recorded from Burma by the describer, but typical specimens in our collection received from him are (perhaps wrongly) supposed to have been brought from Ceylon. There are also examples from the Andaman Islands. This species is most nearly related to the Australian form, *C. Simpsoni*, Waterh., but is smaller, narrower, and of a uniform brick-red colour. There is a smooth space upon the front of the head placed longitudinally, whereas a similar patch in *C. Simpsoni* is transverse. The typical species, *C. Walkeri*, of which the original specimens were brought from Damma Island, also exists in the island of Matabello.

The generic classification of these peculiar little beetles can only be regarded as provisional until our knowledge of them has become more complete. The hairy fringe upon the head may, perhaps, be found to constitute an important sectional distinction. This, as I have indicated, is a peculiarity of the female sex. It does not appear to occur in all

the species; but, as no attention has been paid to the sexual characteristics in the species hitherto described and few species have been recognized, it may be more general than appears. I have found it only in *Cherostus Walkeri*, *cornutus*, and *jamaicensis*. The importance of the tibial prolongations is also at present uncertain. Lacordaire's second species, *Eutomus madagascariensis*, is said to bear these on the middle legs only, for which reason he regarded it as forming a distinct section of his genus. This may necessitate the formation of a third genus if the feature is found to have the importance attached to it by him.

The description of the larva of *Rhipidandrus fungicola* by Friedenreich is interesting, in view of the extremely divergent views which have been held as to the proper location of the group. The body is bent like that of most Lamellicornia, but there are only nine abdominal segments, which are not larger than the thoracic, and the terminal one ends in a pair of pointed processes. There are five ocelli on each side of the head, and the labial palpi are said to be three-jointed. All these characteristics exclude the insect from the ranks of the Lamellicorn Coleoptera and conclusively point to its relationship to the lignivorous Malacodermata. This additional light is of value in settling the question as to the true systematic position of an enigmatical type of insect which has been referred to no less than four of the suborders of Coleoptera.

The "Heptaphyllini" being eliminated, it remains true for the Lamellicornia that a primitive five-jointed tarsus is the most invariable of their characteristics, probably the only exception being a very few obviously degenerate forms such as *Stenosternus* and *Phycobius*, which are among the most abnormal of all Coleoptera.

VI.—*New Sciurus*, *Rhipidomys*, *Sylvilagus*, and *Caluromys* from Venezuela. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Sciurus flammifer, sp. n.

A very large species allied to *S. igniventris*. Belly white. Tail ochraceous. General colour of body above of the same speckled or grizzled yellowish as in *S. igniventris*. Head and ears rufous. Chin pale rufous. Rest of underside and inner sides of limbs pure sharply defined white, edged on each side with a narrow line of orange-rufous. Outer side of limbs rich rufous, becoming orange-rufous on the digits.

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