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XLVII.—Description of a new species of Mantidæ

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angles is produced into a spur-like process; the other inner angle is furnished with an acute spur.

I think this genus must undoubtedly be placed among the Lepturidæ, although it is quite unlike any thing in that family known to me. The structure of the antennæ is nearest to that in *Rhamnusium*, but the joints are all rather longer; the structure of the sterna and abdomen also agree well with that genus, except that the prosternal process is more sloping posteriorly. The eyes, however, are very finely granular, and are not supported posteriorly by the cheeks, in which characters it agrees with some other Madagascar Lepturidæ; and, on the whole, it appears to be best placed near *Enthymius*, Waterh.

Dysmathosoma picipes, n. sp.

Nigrum, parum nitidum, brevissime griseo-pilosum; antennis pedibusque rufo-piceis; elytris piceis sublævibus, vitta impressa discoidali et altera apicali griseo-pubescentibus.

Long. $10\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

The head is closely and very finely punctured. The thorax is smooth, except along the front margin and in the space between the dorsal swellings, where it is closely and very finely punctured. The elytra are smooth and shining, with a few punctures scattered over the surface; there is a slight impression at the base within the shoulder; on the disk near the suture is an elongate narrow impression, and at the apex there is another similar impression, but shallower. The surface may perhaps be at times entirely clothed with greyish-white pubescence; but in the specimen described it is only in the impressions. The metasternum has a deep impressed median line; it is, as well as the four basal segments of the abdomen, sparingly punctured; the apical segment is more thickly and more finely punctured.

XLVII.—*Description of a new Species of Mantidæ.*

By FRANCIS P. PASCOE.

Callimantis eximia.

C. capite prothoraceque sordide luteis, tegminibus fulvo-viridibus; alis antice miniatis, postice purpureo-fuscis, albo-venosis, extus pellucido-limbatis. Long. 10 lin.

Hab. Pará.

Head and prothorax dull fulvous, the latter about half as long again as the breadth of the head; antennæ very slender,

black; tegmina fulvous green; wings with a pellucid border gradually narrowing posteriorly, the anterior quarter minaceous red, the remainder purplish brown (except that at the base there is a reddish tinge), the veins white; abdomen dull yellowish, glossy; legs greenish, anterior coxæ paler.

In the British Museum this elegant little species bears the MS. name *C. venezuelæ*, Bates; but, as it is now shown to extend beyond Venezuela, I have not adopted that name. I took a single specimen by sweeping among some low bushes in a *naturally* open space probably a mile or so long, and about half that breadth, with the primæval forest all around, a mile or two beyond the little village of Nazaré, near Pará; but, although I returned to the spot several times, I never succeeded in finding another.

This species will be figured in an early number of 'Aid to the Identification of Insects.'

XLVIII.—*Note on the Classification of the Homoptera.*

By FRANCIS P. PASCOE.

CONSIDERABLE difference of opinion exists as to the relative value of groups below the rank of orders among the Insecta; and nowhere perhaps is it more remarkable than with the Hemiptera*. Entomologists in the middle ages, *i. e.* from about 1830 to 1860, were content to divide the Homopterous section of them, exclusive of the Phytophthiria or Sternorhynchi, into three families, while the Heteropterous section had eleven (Amyot and Serville, 1843). Now we have at most five families of the former; but how many of the latter I am not prepared to say, Messrs. Douglas and Scott, in their 'British Hemiptera-Heteroptera' (1865), having not less than sixty-five families for the comparatively few species of these islands alone. For most these so-called families only rank as subordinate groups; but the fact shows how widely opinions differ. In my little work on Zoological Classification (2nd edit. 1880) I proposed thirteen families† for the

* Hemiptera was one of the four orders into which Linnaeus divided the Insecta in the first edition of his 'Systema Naturæ' (1735). Fabricius in 1775 proposed the term Ryngota for the same order (now Rhynchota).

† Wrongly *Cephalelus* and *Ulopa* were placed under Cercopidæ instead of Iassidæ. It is true that this approximation is substantially the same as Walker's (Brit. Mus. List Homop. 637 *et seq.*). *Phenax* seems to lie between Cixiæ and Lystridæ; *Dictyophora* has the cephalic prolongation of Fulgoridæ.