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XVIII.—Horæ Zoologicæ

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laris. The form of the petiole and leaves resembling the snout of the saw-fish, marks them out as belonging to *P. hirsuta*.

POLYGONEÆ.—*Polygonum viviparum* and *Oxyria reniformis*.

EMPETREÆ.—*Empetrum nigrum*.

SALICES.—*Salix Myrtilloides* and two imperfect specimens not yet determined.

CYPERACEÆ.—*Eriophorum capitatum* and *E. polystachion*.

I owe an apology to the Society for the length to which these observations have extended,—far beyond the slight notices at first designed; and yet I have been able but very imperfectly to execute the task proposed. But in the progress of this slight attempt I have felt more and more convinced of the advantage to be derived, in abler hands, towards the improvement of practical botany from detailed descriptions of individual plants in the case of species liable to much variation.

XVIII.—*Horæ Zoologicæ*. By Sir W. JARDINE, Bart.,
F.R.S.E. & F.L.S.

[With two Plates.]

No. VI. *Illustrations of Ornithology*.

Artamus mentalis (Plate VIII.).—Of the native country of this *Artamus* we have no information. The specimen from which our illustration was taken forms part of the ornithological collection belonging to the York Philosophical Society, and was noticed there by Mr. Gould as distinct from any of the previously described species. The principal characters that are at first sight apparent, are, the strength and size of the bill, the dark colour of the upper plumage, and the small size of the dark space on the chin compared with the colouring of the same part on *A. leucorhynchus*, where it covers the whole front of the throat and neck.

The bill is dilated and swollen at the base, and appears to have been of the same rich blue colour which prevails in those species which have been described from recently killed birds; towards the tip it shades gradually into black. The head, cheeks, mental patch, back and wings brownish black with an opaque grayish shade; tail black, narrowly tipped with white; the throat, breast and under parts, the rump and upper tail-covers, under wing-covers and axillary feathers pure white.

Entire length of the stuffed specimen, $6\frac{8}{10}$ inches; bill to gape, 1; to forehead nearly $\frac{8}{10}$; of the wing to the end of second or longest quill, 5. The accompanying figure is slightly reduced.

GENUS GNATHODON, *Jard*.

Gen. Characters.—Bill strong, maxilla hooked, sharp-pointed; mandible cut at the tip into three distinct angular teeth; nostrils

ARTAMUS MENTALIS.

1845.

basal, linear, pierced in an oval membrane; wings broad, concave; quills acuminate, second, third, fourth nearly equal; bend of the wing with a small tubercle; tarsi short (the tarsi here are imperfect and cannot be defined); feet gressorial; toes unconnected at the base, exterior and interior equal in length; claws slightly curved. Type *G. strigirostris*.

Gnathodon strigirostris, nat. size.

Gnathodon strigirostris (Plate IX.).—We are indebted to Lady Harvey, whose extensive collection of natural history in Edinburgh is always open when science can be promoted, for a specimen of this very remarkable bird. It was purchased at a sale of various Australian productions, and although we cannot fix upon the district or locality whence they were obtained, we have little doubt of the specimen having come to this country with the others.

The size is about that of the common stock dove. The maxilla, strigine-like, hooked and sharp-pointed, has been yellowish orange. The nostrils are externally linear, and are pierced in an oval membrane; the mandible is proportionally strong, and at the tip is cut into three distinct angular teeth, orange-yellow, red at the base. Space between the nostrils and eyes, and a small patch on each side of the throat bare of feathers. The head, neck, upper part of the back, breast and belly are black with green reflections, brightest on the upper back and sides of the breast, and there having each feather tipped with a broad margin of gray conspicuous in some positions, and appearing at times to occupy the whole space. The back, rump, wings except the quills, tail and under tail-covers rich orange-brown; quills and secondaries grayish black. The tarsi and feet have been pink or scarlet.

Entire length of the stuffed specimen from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 inches; bill to gape, 1; to forehead, $\frac{7}{10}$; of wing to the end of third quill, 8.

The first general appearance of this bird is somewhat dove-like,

GNATHODON STRIGIROSTRIS

Sept. 1845.

but the very strong hooked bill and remarkable teeth displayed in the mandible are at variance with the most powerfully-billed pigeons, and we can form at present no opinion as to the probable use or adaptation of the latter structure. The position and linear form of the nostril agree with that of *Megapodius* as well as the bare space in front of the eye, and the indication of the want of feathers on the sides of the throat. The form of the wing approaches to that of *Penelope*. The tail of fourteen feathers is square and comparatively short, while the colouring of the plumage reminds us of some of the ground doves. The tarsi are short, and are naked very shortly above the tarsal joint; the outward covering has been destroyed, but in front appears to have consisted of rounded scales. The feet are of moderate size, and the outer and inner toes, quite unconnected at the base, are of equal length.

From a careful consideration of the general characters, we are inclined then to place this singular bird with the *Peneloponina* or *Megapodina*, probably the latter. We are aware of no existing description, though there is one allusion made to a bird which may eventually turn out to be this. In Mr. Strickland's Report on the Recent Progress and Present State of Ornithology, read before the British Association at York, it is stated, "The recent American voyage of discovery will extend our knowledge of Polynesian zoology, and its researches will be made known by Mr. Titian Peale, who is said to have discovered among other rarities a new bird allied to the dodo, which he proposes to name *Didunculus*;" and we believe "*strigirostris*" has been applied specifically. In that part of these voyages already published there is no zoology given, so that we cannot now ascertain the value of this discovery, and from the specimen before us possessing no characters in common with a struthious bird, we have ventured to characterize it as a new generic form.

July 30, 1845.

XIX. — *Descriptions of new or imperfectly described Diurnal Lepidoptera*. By EDWARD DOUBLEDAY, Esq., Assistant in the Zoological Department of the British Museum, F.L.S. &c.

Fam. PAPILIONIDÆ.

Genus PAPILIO.

P. Bromius. *P. alis omnibus nigris, fascia communi lata punctisque marginali viridibus; subtus fuscis, posticis fascia maculari pallide aurea.* Exp. alar. 3 unc. 9 lin. vel 95 millim.

Hab. Ashanti. *P. Bromius*, Cat. of Lep. of Brit. Mus. 147.

Wings above black, traversed by a broad bright green fascia di-