XXXVI. *Description of a new Strepsipterous Insect recently discovered in the Island of Mauritius. By J. O. WESTWOOD, F.L.S., &c.*

[Read May 4, 1835.]

Genus ELENCHUS, Curt.

Species EL. TEMPLETONII, Westw. Plate XVII. fig. 15.

Fuscus, thorace valde gibboso, oculis magnis nigris, segmentis abdominalibus constrictis, antennarum articulo 5to subclavato et in medio subangustato, articulum referente; elytris clavatis nigricantibus versus apicem; alis latissimis pallidis fuscescentibus, nervis obscurioribus; tarsis ut in *El. Walkeri*, Curt. formatis; pedibus antennisque pube tenuissimâ indutis.

Long. corp. $\frac{3}{4}$ lin.; expans. alarum fere lin. 1.

Habitat in Insulâ Mauritiî.

This is by far the most minute species of this anomalous order of insects hitherto discovered; *Elenchus tenuicornis* (*Walkeri*?) far exceeding it in size, and differing from it in the darker colour of the body as well as in the tint of the wings, which is much less sooty than in that species.

Several specimens of it were captured by Robert Templeton, Esq., one of our most indefatigable entomologists, during the course of last August (1834) in the Island of Mauritius. I have accordingly dedicated it with his name as a slight return for the many kindnesses which I have received at his hands.

The existence of an insect like the present in a region where, from its peculiar geographical situation, very different kinds of insects might naturally be expected to be discovered from those found in our own country, is certainly singular, and at the same time highly interesting, and this is rendered the more peculiar by the limited number of Diplopterous and Melliferous insects existing in the Island.

At a former meeting of this Society* I took occasion to read an extract from a letter from Mr. Templeton relative to the capture of a specimen of the *Elenchus tenuicornis* in the nest of a *Bombus* in Ireland. Since his return from the Mauritius he has been so kind

* Vide Journal of Proceedings, p. xxxix.

as to furnish me with the following particulars relative to the capture of this new species, and in which it will be seen that he seems now inclined to doubt the parasitic connexion between the *Elenchus* and *Bombus*, and which he had formerly supposed to exist.

“ Around my pavilion at Black-river, in the Mauritius, are stationed some large Tamarind and Bois de Napp trees, (*another* of the Leguminosæ, but I do not know what genus or species;) and the long grass about their roots, quite shaded from the extreme heat of the sun, concealed the little insects in question. I never could find them elsewhere, though I carefully examined under the trees on the hill and the thick jungle on the opposite side of the river. I began latterly to think that it was most probably their *locale*, from the wasps (*Polistes*?) being alone found in any numbers about the house; the yellow one building busily, last November, its papyritious habitation and the other (black, with a long abdominal peduncle) its clay mansion wherever it was permitted to remain unmolested. At any rate my supposition stated in a note in Curtis’s ‘British Entomology’, fol. 433, becomes completely untenable, that it is parasitic on the *Bombus*, as there are none in the island. I found a good number of the *Elenchus*, but my net mutilated them so much that those you have are the only ones which escaped tolerably. I examined a vast number of the yellow wasps, but could never find any of the rings with appearances of any irregularity about them; perhaps it was the wrong season.”

XXXVII. Remarks on the Destruction of Cocci.

By A. INGPEN, Esq., A.L.S., &c.

[Read April 6, 1835.]

I BEG to exhibit a cutting of a golden pippin apple-tree, put into my hand by my worthy friend Mr. Anderson, Curator of the Physic Garden at Chelsea, which is much infested with the *Coccus arborum linearis*, Geoff. ? The tree from which it was taken is trained against a west-aspected wall, and every branch is similarly covered. The injuries which the *Cocci* do to vegetation are very great, not only in green- and hot-houses, but also, which is of more importance, to the out-door fruits. The apple, pear, plum, peach, apricot, &c., suffer alike from their destructive attacks. The effects of their ravages