

flying about like swallows, and as they mobbed me, I concluded that they had nests, but though I made most diligent search could not find any. I procured a pair of birds: the eggs in the ovaries of the female were large: the crop of the female was filled to a great size with a species of small black beetle. This occurred in the month of March.

May 22, 1855.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

The following papers were read:—

1. DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW OR LITTLE-KNOWN TANAGERS.

By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A.

(Aves, Pl. LXXXIX.—XCII.)

1. ARREMON ERYTHORHYNCHUS, Sclater. (Pl. LXXXIX.)

A. olivaceus: capite nigro; vitta mediali verticis, nucha cervicisque lateribus cinereis; superciliis et corpore subtus albis: torque gutturali angusta nigra: lateribus cinerascentibus: campterio flavo: pedibus albis: rostro elongatiore, incurvo, rubro.

Long. tota 5·8, alæ 3·0, caudæ 2·7.

Hab. in Nova Grenada, Bogota.

I have to thank Mr. Gould for allowing me to describe this new *Arremon*, which is from his collection. It is closely allied to my *Arremon spectabilis* (P. Z. S. 1854, p. 114. pl. 67) from Quixos, but may be distinguished by its more lengthened incurved and brilliant orange red-bill, and the yellow bend of the wing.

2. TACHYPHONUS XANTHOPYGIUS, Sclater. (Pl. XC.)

Tachyphonus xanthopygius, Sclater, P.Z.S. 1854, p. 158. pl. 69 (♀).

Lanio auritus, DuBus, Bull. Ac. Brux. Feb. 1855 (♂ et ♀).

♂ *niger*: tergo flavo: fascicula post-superciliari coccinea: carpo summo dilute flavo: tectricibus subalaribus albis.

Long. tota 6·1, alæ 3·5, caudæ 2·5.

♀ *nigro-cinereus*, subtus dilutior; axillis et tectricibus subalaribus albis: tergo flavo.

Hab. in Nova Grenada, Bogota.

I described the female of this fine Tanager at the meeting of this Society on the 25th of July last year. M. Parzudaki of Paris has lately received several examples of both sexes from Bogota. A pair of these passed into the hands of the Vicomte DuBus, by whom they were characterized as new in the Bulletins de l'Académie Royale

de Belgique* for February last. A male bird from the same quarter has been kindly entrusted to me for examination before being deposited in the British Museum, where the female I originally named is also to be found. I cannot agree with the Vicomte DuBus in considering this species a *Lanio*, but, after seeing the male, am the more convinced that it is a true *Tachyphonus*.

3. TANAGRA NOTABILIS, Jardine. (Pl. XCI.)

T. flavo-olivacea : capite undique et mento nigris, macula nuchali triangulari, a dorso linea nigra divisa, flava : alis nigris cæruleo marginatis, tectricibus autem summis dorso concoloribus : cauda nigra, margine vix cærulescente : subtus læte aurantio-flava : rostro pedibusque nigris.

Long. tota 7·2, alæ 3·7, caudæ 3·0.

Hab. in rep. Equatoriana.

Sir William Jardine has been so good as to lend me the types of this and the following species of Tanagers for examination. They were lately procured by Professor Jameson of Quito, during a botanical excursion along the eastern range of Cordilleras to the north of Quito, and are to be described with other rare birds, the product of the same or similar expeditions, in the forthcoming number of the new series of the Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal.

The present bird is a most brilliant fourth of the little section denominated *Compsocoma* by Cabanis, easily distinguished from the others by its yellow-olive back, triangular nape-spot, black chin and orange-yellow under-plumage, and may be therefore called *Compsocoma notabilis*, if that name is used generically. The other three species of this group are—(1) *Compsocoma victorini*, with its dark olive back and elongated nape-stripe, which is common in collections from Bogota ; (2) *C. sumptuosa* (Arch. du Musée Paris., vii. p. 379. pl. 23), with the back black and uropygium olivascens, from Trans-andean Ecuador—the same locality as the present—and Peru ; and (3) *C. flavinucha*, a rare species in collections, which seems confined to Bolivia, where d'Orbigny discovered it on the eastern slope of the Andes of the province of La Paz.

4. SALTATOR ARREMONOPS, Jardine. (Pl. XCII.)

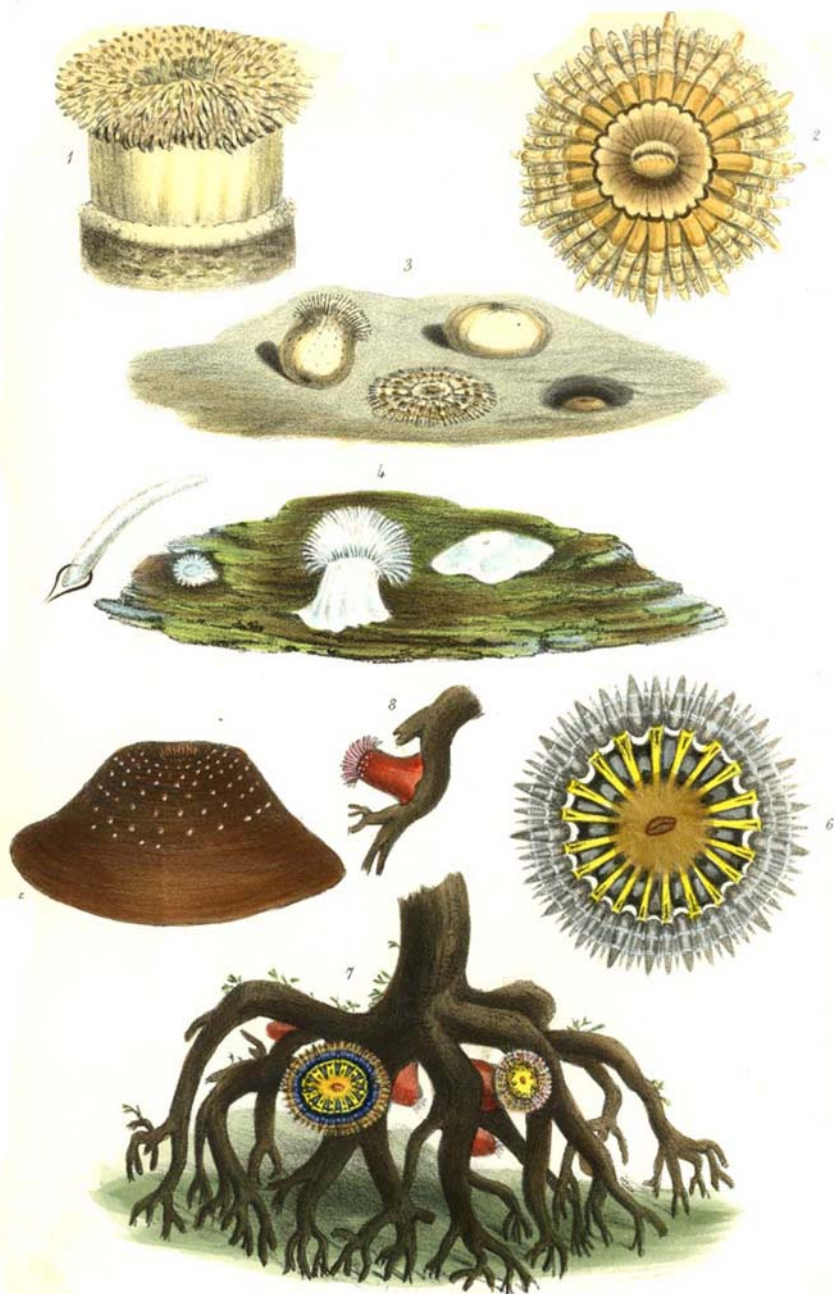
S. rufo-brunneus, olivaceo parum tinctus, pectore multo clariore et rubescentiore : capite toto mentoque nigris ; vitta mediali verticis et superciliari utrinque postice elongatis cum medio ventre cinereis : alis intus et cauda nigricantibus : rostro et pedibus nigris.

Long. tota 7·25, alæ 3·2, caudæ 3·5.

Hab. in rep. Equatoriana.

This peculiar Tanager in style of plumage and general habit cor-

* The article is entitled " Note sur quelques espèces inédites d'Oiseaux." The *Nemosia torquata* therein described (sp. 10) is my *Dacnis pulcherrima*, Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1853, p. 480—(a true *Dacnis* to my mind) ; and, is not *Vireosylvia frenata*, DuBus, sp. 1, the same as *V. altiloqua*, Vieill.—Cassin, Birds of Cal. pl. 37. p. 221—and *Phyllomanes mystacalis*, Cab. Wiegman. Arch. 1844, p. 348 ?



123. SCOLANTHUS SPHÆROIDES 4. ACTINIA PALLIDA. 5. 6. 7. ACT. ORNATA.

responds most closely with the members of the genus *Arremon*, but the bill is altogether abnormal, the upper mandible swelling in the middle and overlapping the under, as in the genus *Lanio*, though not developed into a decided hook. But the bill is much shorter, broader and deeper than in the last-named genus, and has more general resemblance to that of some of the *Saltatores*. The wings are very short, but the only skin sent belonging to a bird in moult, the comparative length of the remiges cannot be determined.

2. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SEA ANEMONE.

By E. W. H. HOLDSWORTH, F.Z.S.

(Radiata, Pl. V.)

The species now to be described must be separated from the true *Actinæ*, and may be well placed in the genus *Scolanthus*, which was proposed by Mr. Gosse for the reception of an animal obtained by him at Weymouth, and which presented the very distinctive characters of a perforated base, and the absence of a terminal adhesive disk. A description of that species will be found in the 'Annals of Natural History' for the year 1853, p. 157. These points of difference are accompanied, as might be expected, by a variation in habits, and the members of the genus will be found living buried in mud or sand, into which they retire on being alarmed, their extraordinary powers of inversion enabling them to hide at some little distance below the surface.

SCOLANTHUS SPHEROÏDES. (Pl. V.)

This species, which I found tolerably abundant at Seaford, near Beachy Head, has, in expansion, the body lengthened and cylindrical, regularly striated longitudinally with fine transverse markings, the upper part sparingly covered with sucking-glands, not arranged in any definite order. Disk flat and even, but little exceeding the diameter of the body. Tentacula numerous, in three or four irregular series, the inner one containing from nine to twelve; these are the longest, and measure, when fully extended, about half an inch, or two-thirds of the breadth of the disk; the outer row consists of from fifty to sixty tentacula of the same slender tapering form as the inner ones, but are one-third shorter, the other series being intermediate in size and number. The body tapers a little posteriorly and terminates with a rounded base, having a distinct central perforation. When closely contracted, the two ends of the body are nearly alike, and the animal assumes the appearance of a more or less flattened sphere or bead, the resemblance to which is much increased by the presence of the terminal orifices.

The colour of the body is a dirty-white, and the upper portion is generally covered with particles of sand or mud adherent to the sucking-glands surrounding that part, and which help to conceal the animal when contracted, as is found to be the case with *Act. crassicornis*, and probably other species under similar circumstances. The mouth opens transversely, and from it very delicate white lines radiate

to the bases of the tentacula, interspersed with two or three shades of brown in the form of stripes or spots: in some specimens a circle of very pale spots with darker margins surrounds the mouth. The base of each tentaculum is very dark and is surmounted by a broad band of white or buff, the upper portion shading off to a clear pale pellucid brown, on which are three narrow distinct white rings, their breadth and the interspaces diminishing rapidly as they approach the tip. These animals are capable of assuming a great variety of shapes, and even when fully expanded sometimes elongate themselves to the extent of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, or contract to little more than a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch. They feed readily in confinement; but those that had buried themselves in the sand appeared best able to secure their prey when placed within reach, the others on the surface often tumbling over in their endeavours to get the food into a proper position for swallowing, from not having the support of the surrounding sand or mud natural to them when buried. They were all found near low watermark, imbedded in the fine chalky mud which fills the crevices of the rocks at Seaford, their expanded disks being just level with the surface, but so nearly covered that only a faint star-like outline was visible; on being touched they instantly disappeared; and so great was their power of inversion and contraction, that on digging carefully, they were generally found about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep, and having that peculiar bead-like form which has suggested the specific name of *sphæroides*. There was usually a depth of 6 or 7 inches of mud below them, so that they could not have been fastened to the rock; and since I have had them at home, now nearly five weeks, they have not shown the least inclination to attach themselves to the gravel, or glass sides of the tank in which they are living; three of them have burrowed into some sand on which they were placed, but the others remain on the surface, and are but rarely contracted. Soft mud is probably their natural habitat, being the most easily penetrated, and I could find no traces of any of these animals in a considerable tract of sand only a few yards from the locality whence these were obtained.

June 12, 1855.

W. Yarrell, Esq., in the Chair.

The following papers were read:—

1. ON TWO NEW SPECIES OF HUMMING BIRDS.

BY JOHN GOULD, F.R.S.

I bring before the notice of the Meeting two species of beautiful Humming Birds, which I believe to be new to science: they belong to that section of the *Trochilidæ* to which the generic appellation of *Heliothrix* has been given: of this form only three species have