

TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW.

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NO. I.—NOTE ON A SPECIMEN OF “GLYPTOSCORPIUS” FROM  
THE COAL MEASURES OF AIRDRIE, the Property of Robert  
Dunlop, of Baillieston. By DR. B. N. PEACH, F.R.S., F.G.S.,  
*President.*

[Read 10th February, 1887.]

THE specimen exhibits a dorsal view of about one-third of the carapace and portion of seven dorsal and two ventral sclerites of the trunk (abdomen) of an arachnid covered with a minute sculpturing, hitherto considered characteristic of the eurypterida. The carapace has evidently been divided into lobes by a central depression, the posterior portion of which is preserved. It is along this groove that the central eyes should occur, but, unfortunately, that portion of the carapace is not preserved. Towards the right anterior broken margin of the carapace, and at a lower level in the shaly matrix, a chelate limb is seen. This probably represents one of the smaller nippers or chelicerae of the scorpions and phalangids, for it is more than likely that the large nippers of the scorpion were represented in *Glyptoscorpilus* by an antenna-like limb, such as that now found in the phalangids, with which recent group these older animals appear to be allied. The recent “harvestmen” still retain a sculpturing on the harder portions of their test almost identical with that to be found on the present specimen.

One of the chief points of interest about the specimen is that it occurs in a higher horizon than any from which

glyptoscorpium (eurypterus) has hitherto been recorded. Taken in conjunction with the fact that Mr. Bennie has been finding fragments of the test of glyptoscorpium from almost every coal seam and "dirt bed" representing carboniferous land surfaces,



*Glyptoscorpium minutisculptus.*

the occurrence of this specimen in the coal measure shales, and embedded along with plant remains, goes far to confirm the conjecture that glyptoscorpium was a land animal and an air breather. Probably for this very reason it has hitherto been

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very difficult to obtain anything but broken fragments even of single plates of such animals. It is to be hoped that, now the attention of geologists is directed to the occurrence of these interesting land animals intermediate between eurypterids and some of our recent spiders, more perfect specimens will be secured, by means of which their structure and true affinities may be more fully demonstrated.

Should it be thought that a specific name were desirable, I would suggest that of *Minutisculptus*, from the minute character of the ornamentation by which every portion of the animal seems to have been covered.