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XXXVI.—A list of the Scolytidæ collected in Ceylon by Mr. George Lewis, with descriptions of new species

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XXXVI.—*A List of the Scolytidæ collected in Ceylon by Mr. George Lewis, with Descriptions of new Species.* By W. F. H. BLANDFORD, M.A., F.Z.S., F.E.S.

BESIDES the large collection of Scolytidæ made in Japan by Mr. George Lewis, which has formed the subject of descriptive papers by myself, a smaller number were obtained by him in Ceylon and placed at the same time in my hands. They comprise some twenty-seven species, of which fifteen

have been identified with described forms; the remaining species, with the exception of one or two of doubtful character, I now describe. Two are referred to new monotypic genera, one of which, *Craniodicticus*, is interesting and of doubtful relationship.

Previous descriptions of Ceylonese Scolytidæ are due chiefly to Motschulsky and Walker. Those of the former author, though drawn up with some care, do not always indicate the essential diagnostic points, so as to form a reliable guide to identification. Those of Walker are, of course, useless, but his types are in the British Museum collection and a short account of them may be of service. Under the head of Tomicidæ he describes fourteen species (Ann. Nat. Hist. (3) iii. pp. 260, 261). Of these *Apate submedia*, *Bostrichus mutilatus*, *B. vertens*, and *B. moderatus* are Bostrychidæ. *Bostrichus testaceus* and *exiguus* belong to the genus *Xyleborus*. *Platypus minax* has been placed by Chapuis in *Crossotarsus*; *P. solidus* and *latifinis* are true *Platypi*. *Hylurgus determinans* is a Cossonid, *Hylurgus concinnulus* a *Phlæosinus*. *Hylesinus curvifer* belongs to *Diamerus*, Er. (*Acanthurus*, Eichh.). This species is also found in the Andaman Islands, and is probably the same as one of the two described by Eichhoff from Sumatra. *Hylesinus despectus* is a true *Hylesinus*, and *Hylesinus? irresolutus* is an Anthribid.

The following is a list of the species taken by Mr. Lewis:—

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| * <i>Craniodicticus mucronatus</i> , gen.
et sp. n. | * <i>Xyleborus indicus</i> , Eichh. |
| <i>Hylesinus despectus</i> , Walk. | * — interjectus, Blandf. |
| <i>Phlæosinus deterius</i> , Chap. | * — seminitens, sp. n. |
| * <i>Cryphalus vestitus</i> , sp. n. | — perforans, Woll. |
| * — fuliginosus, sp. n. | — parvulus, Eichh. |
| * <i>Cosmoderes monilicollis</i> , Eichh. | * — dentatus, sp. n. |
| * <i>Scolytomimus dilutus</i> , gen. et
sp. n. | <i>Eccoptyterus sex-spinosus</i> ,
Motsch. |
| * <i>Dryocetes flavicornis</i> , sp. n. | * <i>Crossotarsus Saundersi</i> , Chap |
| (* <i>Xyleborus Lewisi</i> , Blandf.) | — venustus, Chap. |
| * — asperatus, sp. n. | <i>Platypus solidus</i> , Walk. |
| — fornicatus, Eichh. | — latifinis, Walk. |
| — obliquecauda, Motsch. | * — uncinatus, sp. n. |

The species indicated with an asterisk have not been previously recorded from the island. *X. Lewisi* was not taken by Mr. Lewis, but is inserted on the authority of an example in the collection of the Rev. H. S. Gorham. Two or three undetermined species of *Cryphalus* and one of *Hypothenemus* are omitted.

CRANIODICTICUS, gen. nov.

Caput globosum, exsertum; oculi ovales, lati, emarginati; antennæ breves, lateraliter insertæ, scapo clavato, funiculo paullo longiore, 5-articulato, articulo 1° magno, 2° obconico, ceteris transversis, latitudine haud crescentibus, clava ovali, haud compressa, tri-articulata, articulo 1° magno hemisphærico, sequentibus conjunctim longiore, his transversis latitudine subabrupte decrescentibus. Mentum ad basin angustum, versus apicem dilatatum, lateribus sinuatis; palpi labiales articulis 1°, 2° tumidis, 3° cylindrico.

Prothorax cylindricus, lateribus pro receptione femorum impressis, immarginatis.

Prosternum et mesosternum brevia, metasternum elongatum, episternis angustis. Abdominis segmenta 1^{um} et 5^{um} ceteris singulis longiora.

Coxæ anticæ magnæ, globosæ, distantes; intermediae distantes. Femora compressa, anteriora medio dilatata; tibiæ breves, extus dilatatae, ad apicem oblique truncatae, margine externo subtiliter dentato; tarsi tibiis longiores, articulis 2 primis brevibus, 3° paullo longiore ad apicem incrassato, 5° ceteris conjunctim fere æquali.

Craniodicticus mucronatus, sp. n.

Elongatus, cylindricus, nitidus, parcissime pilosus, niger vel nigropiceus, tarsorum articulo ultimo testaceo; capite parce punctato, fronte medio impunctata, pilis cinereis brevibus circumdata; prothorace oblongo, angulis posticis rotundatis, lateribus mox ante basin constrictis inde subparallelis, dorso antice fortiter punctato, punctis posterius sparsis, postice lævi; scutello minuto; elytris prothorace duplo fere longioribus, basi truncata, lateribus subrectis, subdivergentibus, ad apicem abrupte inflexis, margine apicali crenato, subacuminato, ad suturam spinulis duobus truncatis armato, spinula recta majore, supra fortiter punctato-striatis, interstitiis angustis, convexis, in apice fortiter convexe declivi tuberculis piligeris instructis.

Long. 2-2.2 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Dikoya. Several specimens.

The frontal area has, in addition to the marginal hairs, a very short pubescence in some examples, probably a sexual character. The prothorax is gently curved from base to apex and is slightly constricted behind the apex so as to embrace the base of the head; the punctures extend back along the sides to the hinder third, and the anterior border is, in addition, very finely reticulate and scantily hairy. The base of the elytra is not elevated above the prothorax; it is a singular feature that of the two small cylindrical spines which occur at the sutural angles of the elytra the right one is in all specimens stouter and twice as long as the left.

I can suggest no near relationship for this genus, which in the shape of the prothorax somewhat resembles *Chapuisia*, Dugès. It differs, however, in the structure of the antennal club and the much less elongate tarsi.

According to Mr. Lewis the specimens were taken in one of the creepers known as "jungle-rope."

Hylesinus despectus, Walk.

Hylesinus scobipennis, Chap. Syn. Scol. p. 30.

Hab. Ceylon, Balangoda. One example.

This may be identical with *H. granulifer*, Motsch. Chapuis refers the authorship of his name to Eichhoff, who does not, however, appear to have published any description of it.

Phlæosinus detersus, Chap.

Hab. Ceylon, Dikoya. Six specimens.

This species varies in colour from testaceous brown to piceous or black, with the antennæ and tarsi testaceous. It may be identical with *Holonthogaster nitidicollis*, Motsch. As with the preceding species, the authorship is ascribed by Chapuis to Eichhoff.

Cryphalus vestitus, sp. n.

Oblongo-ovalis, opacus, longe pilosus, fusco-piceus, antennis pedibusque fusco-testaceis; fronte punctata, medio transverse carinata, postice alutacea; oculis emarginatis; antennarum clava orbiculari, suturis valde curvatis; prothorace vix transverso, versus apicem angustato, dorso amplo convexo, anterieus tuberculis in plagam vix elevatam, postice rotundatam aggregatis scabrato, posterius granulose punctato; elytris ad medium subparallelis, subtiliter striato-punctatis, striis ad basin impressis, interstitiis planis, rugulosis, pilis seriatis versus apicem longioribus instructis.

Long. 2.2 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Bogawantalawa. One specimen.

Among the largest species of the genus, and readily distinguished by the long dense pubescence. The transverse frontal carina is probably a sexual feature. The antennal club is large, and the sutures are so strongly curved that the basal joint is orbicular and the rest lunate; its surface is shining and finely alutaceous, with the sutural margins fringed. The greater or less curvature of these sutures has been employed for the separation of the genus into various subgenera; but these are of no value, except for the division of the European species. The curvature is always more marked on the upperside of the club.

Cryphalus fuliginosus, sp. n.

Oblongo-ovalis, opacus, fuligineo-fuscus, brevissime pilosus, antennis pedibusque ferrugineis, earum clava ovali, suturis mediocriter curvatis; prothorace subhemisphærico, antice constricto, lateribus modice, apice fortius rotundato, dorso gibboso, anterius plaga tuberculorum mox ad basin angulatim producta asperato, posterius lateraliter granulato; elytris prothorace sesqui amplius longioribus, ad medium subparallelis, supra convexis, subtilissime striatis, striis impunctatis, interstitiis planis, dense confuse punctatis, breviter fusco-squamosis et serie singula setarum per totum instructis.

Long. 2.1 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Bogawantalawa. One specimen.

The body is covered with very short, close-lying, smoky brown, hair-like scales. The front has a short median longitudinal carina, and is finely and thinly pubescent. The sutures of the antennal club are less strongly curved above than in *C. vestitus*, and are nearly straight below. The elytral setæ are fine, short and inconspicuous. This species is separable from *C. vestitus* by the absence of long pubescence.

The collection contains two or three species of *Cryphalus*, which I leave undetermined. Eichhoff has described several from India and Burma, all on single specimens, which may be identical with some of these species; but as his types are not accessible, any attempt at identification would be unsatisfactory.

SCOLYTOMIMUS, gen. nov.

Caput rotundatum, obtectum; oculi ovales, emarginati; antennarum scapus longus, funiculus perbrevis, 6-articulatus, articulis 3^o-6^m transversis, latitudine haud crescentibus, clava permagna, ovalis, compressa, solida, sutura unica obliqua in margine externo incipiente et medium attingente notata; mentum oblongum, lateribus incurvatis, ligula ovali medio inserta, palpis labialibus longis.

Prothorax transversus, semiorbiculatus. Scutellum magnum. Elytra depressa, posterius vix declivia. Abdomen versus apicem ascendens.

Coxæ anticæ approximatae; tibiæ compressæ, extus rotundatae, anticæ extus serratae; tarsi recepti, breves, articulis tribus primis aequalibus.

The antennal club is three times as long as the funiculus, irregularly oval, spongy, and pubescent, with a single conspicuous suture beginning on the outer edge near the base

and running obliquely to the middle of the club, where it ceases. The maxillary lobe is set with fine setiform spines, closer at the tip; the maxillary palpi have the first two joints transverse, the third more than twice as long as broad; the mentum is oblong, narrowed in the middle, with the sides incurved; the labial palpi are inserted close together, the first and third joints are longer than broad.

The genus is intermediate between *Xyloctonus*, Eichh., and *Scolytogenes*, Eichh., and presents the same *Scolytus*-like upward flexure of the abdomen. It differs from the former in the much larger oval antennal club and the undivided eyes, and from the latter in the six-jointed antennal funiculus. The maxillary armature is that of a xylophagous rather than a phloeophagous species; and these genera, which show certain affinities with *Trypodendron*, are perhaps wrongly placed near the *Cryphali*.

Scolytomimus dilutus, sp. n.

Oblongo-ovalis, opacus, glaber, fusco-piceus, elytris stramineis, antennis pedibusque testaceis; prothorace semiorbiculato, basi bisinuato, apice tuberculo unico exstructo, supra convexe gibboso ante basin transverse impresso, granulato, anterieus tuberculis magnis, discretis exstructo; elytris prothorace sesquilingioribus, lateraliter ad medium rectis, inde rotundatis, apice medio haud profunde emarginatis, supra subdepressis, punctato-striatis, punctis magnis, interstitiis fere planis, angustis, confuse subtiliter punctulatis, 9° ad apicem elevato et cum margine laterali ad angulum emarginationis externum conjuncto. Subtus piceus, abdominis segmentis 2°-5^m transverse impressis, porcatis.

Long. 2 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Bogawantalawa. Two specimens.

This insect can hardly be confounded with any other species except *Xyloctonus scolytoides*, Eichh., from which it differs by the generic characters, the very large scutellum, and the absence of costæ on the elytra.

Dryocætes flavicornis, sp. n.

Oblongus, cylindricus, sat nitidus, parce breviter pilosus, pedibus nigro-piceis, antennis tarsisque flavo-testaceis, fronte convexa, nitida, fortiter punctata, linea media subcarinata; antennarum scapo longo, clava ovali, compressa, haud evidentè articulata, ad apicem præcipue inferne pubescente; prothorace oblongo, mox ante basin latissimo, lateribus parum apice fortius singulatim rotundatis, angulis posticis obtusis, dorso leviter convexo, haud gibboso, asperato, tuberculis posterioribus subtilioribus, præter

lineam mediam obsoletis; elytris prothorace duplo fere latoribus, lateribus rectis posterius subampliatis, apice rotundato, supra striato-punctatis, stria suturali profundius punctata, interstitiis angustis, subconvexis, transverse rugulosis, subtiliter uniseriatim punctatis, in declivitate subobliqua subtiliter pilosis et uniseriatim squamis erectis testaceis ornatis; tibiis angustis, anticis extus subrectis.

Long. 2.5 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Bogawantalawa. One specimen.

On account of the absence of distinct sutures on the antennal club, the comparatively long and slender scape, and the slender tibiæ, I am in doubt whether this species should be associated with *Dryocætes*. There is, however, no other genus in which it can be placed, and it approximates to certain species—*D. dinoderoides*, Blandf., &c.—also of doubtful systematic position, from Japan.

Its generic characters require to be fully ascertained by dissection.

Xyleborus asperatus, sp. n.

♀. Oblongo-cylindrica, piceo-nigra, parce longius pilosa, antennis pedibusque testaceis; fronte fortiter rugose punctata, linea media subelevata lævi; prothorace orbiculato, transverso, lateribus postice mediocriter antice cum apice fortius rotundatis; dorso convexo, opaco, medio transverse obtuse elevato, per totum asperato, tuberculis ante medium densis, postice sparsis subtilibus, interstitiis alutaceis; elytris prothorace duplo vix longioribus, lateribus post medium rectis, inde gradatim fortiter rotundatis, apice medio subtransverso, supra sat fortiter lineato-punctatis, lineis parum impressis, interstitiis angustis, subrugulosis, punctis setigeris vix subtilioribus notatis; declivitate convexa, subtus tenuiter carinata, præter suturam impressa, subtiliter striata, punctis obsoletis, interstitio 2° sat fortiter trituberculato, ceteris piligeris.

Long. 2.4 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Dikoya. One example.

This species is distinguishable by the finely asperate hinder half of the subglobose prothorax, the uniseriate punctures of the elytral interstices, and the convex declivity, which is impressed along the suture and bituberculate on each side.

Xyleborus interjectus, Blandf.

Hab. Ceylon, Galle, Kitugalle, Horton Plains; Chusan Is.; Japan.

The examples from Ceylon differ from those from China and Japan, from which I described the species, in the more

evidently impressed elytral striæ; the anterior margin of the prothorax is also a little more rounded.

These differences are hardly specific.

Xyleborus seminitens, sp. n.

♀. Oblonga, cylindrica, picca, breviter pilosa, antennis pedibusque ferrugineo-testaceis; fronte convexa, subglabra, opaca, subtiliter sparsim punctulata, ore ciliato; oculis oblongis, profunde emarginatis; prothorace oblongo, lateribus subparallelis, apice fortiter rotundato, angulis posticis obtusis; dorso ante medium transverse subelevato, anterieus asperato, posterius subopaco, dense alutaceo et hinc illine subtiliter punctulato; elytris prothorace vix tertia parte longioribus, lateribus ad medium parallelis, inde rotundatis, margine apicali singulo obliqua, subrecta, apice ideo acuminato; supra ante medium nitidis, lineato-punctatis, lineis parum impressis, punctis minutis postice subdilatis, interstitiis planis confuse subtiliter punctatis; declivitate ante medium incipiente, convexa, infra carinata, pruinoso-opaca, interstitiis tuberculis parvis setiferis uniseriatim instructis; tibiis extus rotundatis, subtilissime serratis.

Long. 3 millim.

Hab. Ceylon, Dikoya. Two specimens.

This species differs from any known to me in which the prothorax is subcylindrical by the acuminate elytra, the declivity of which is dull, with the interstices very finely and equally tuberculate.

Xyleborus perforans, Woll.

Hab. Ceylon, Dikoya, Balangoda; India, Madeira, &c.

I have elsewhere identified the Ceylonese species, which has been described by Walker under the name *Bostrichus testaceus* and by Eichhoff as *X. Kroatzi*, with Wollaston's *Tomicus perforans*. Possibly *Anodius tuberculatus*, Motsch., is a synonym of the same species.

Xyleborus parvulus, Eichh.

Hab. Ceylon, Kitugalle; India, Belgaum (*Andrewes*); Mauritius (*Eichhoff*).

The single example taken by Mr. Lewis differs from Eichhoff's description in being a little larger (2·3 millim.), rather darker in colour, in having the apex of the thorax somewhat transverse, in possessing no tubercle at the sutural angle of the elytra, whereas it has additional very fine tubercles on the first interstice before its declivous portion and on the third and fourth interstices.

These tubercles are more conspicuous in a still larger specimen (2.5 millim.) taken at Belgaum by Mr. H. E. Andrewes.

As Eichhoff has described under the name *X. dilatatus* a form from Mauritius which differs from the present species by characters precisely similar, it would appear that the two are merely varieties depending on the size of the individual.

Xyleborus dentatus, sp. n.

♀. Linearis, cylindrica, nitida, ferruginea vel picea, prothoracis basi rufescente, antennis pedibusque ferrugineis, parvis longius pilosa; fronte subconvexa, rarius sat fortiter punctata, spatio medio subelevata lævi; prothorace oblongo, lateribus subparallelis, apice fortiter rotundato, dorso medio subnodoso, posterior nitido frequenter subtiliter punctulato, punctis in linea media et versus marginem basalem obsolescentibus; elytris prothorace sesquolongioribus, lateribus subparallelis posterior subangustatis, apice medio haud profunde emarginato; supra lineato-punctatis, linea suturali subimpressa, interstitiis planis vix perspicue seriato-punctatis, 1^o tuberculis 2 aut 3 minutis notato, declivitate excavato-retusa, obcordata, fundo subconcavo, nitido, lævi, ambitu utrinque bituberculato, tuberculis acutis.

Long. 3-3.3 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Dikoya, Bogawantalawa. Several examples.

The hairs on the elytra are limited to a very few at the apex; the terminal excavation is not very oblique nor concave, its margin is raised and thickened, and the lower acute tubercle is situated somewhat within it. Between the upper and lower tubercles are usually situated one or two smaller denticles. The apical emargination is narrow and shallow, and the angles which it forms with the posterior margin are thickened, but not tuberculate.

The species appears allied to *X. fallax*, Eichh., which differs in possessing three spines on each side of the apical excavation which gradually increase in size.

Eccoptopterus sex-spinosus, Motsch.

Hab. Ceylon, Kitugalle, Dikoya. Four examples.

This insect appears to be widely distributed. It has been found in Ceylon, Damma Island, Burma, Borneo, Celebes, Batchian and New Guinea. Some specimens from the two latter islands possess one or two smaller spines on the lateral border of the elytral declivity. This is well-marked in a specimen from Borneo, which has five spines on each elytron. But these subsidiary denticles are not constant, nor even

symmetrical; and though they do not occur in any Ceylonese or Burmese examples, do not appear to be indicative of a new species.

In a previous paper on the Scolytidæ of Japan (Trans. Ent. Soc. 1894, p. 127) I suggested that there were grave doubts as to the accuracy of the application of the sexual characters throughout Chapuis's 'Monographie des Platypides.' The hesitation I then felt as to the necessity of reversing the sexual distinctions throughout his work has since been dispelled. Hopkins, in a paper on the sexual characters of North-American Scolytids as ascertained by dissection (Canad. Ent., Oct. 1894), reverses the sexes of the species of *Platypus* therein dealt with. I propose in future to do the same throughout the subfamily, with the exception, perhaps, of one or two monotypic genera which are not available for dissection.

Crossotarsus venustus, Chap.

Crossotarsus venustus, Chap. Mon. Plat. p. 88, ♂ (*lege* ♀).

♂. Ferrugineo-piceus, capite et elytrorum apice infuscatis; fronte subconcaua, opaca, posterius profunde punctata, striga media longitudinali impressa; vertice subopaca, subtilius irregulariter punctata, linea media nitida obsoleta; prothorace latitudine sublongiore, subtiliter irregulariter punctato, sulco brevi haud profundo, disco ante sulcum subimpresso; elytris lineato-punctatis, lineis ad basin impressis, interstitiis planis tenuiter lineato-punctatis, apice decliui, convexo, striato, interstitiis elevatis, seriato-tuberculatis et pilosis, angulis externis productis, margine externo singulo a lateris apice crena acuta separato, inde intus curuato, serrato, emarginatione media profunda, angulis suturalibus productis acutis, impressione apicali lunata, nitida, subconcaua.

Long. 4 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Dikoya. A pair.

The male, the characters of which must refer the species to the *Crossotarsi subdepressi*, appears to be nearly allied to *C. terminatus*, Chap., which it resembles in shape, having the apical processes of the elytra incurved and separated by a narrow deep emargination. It differs from the description and figure of that species (I have not seen the type) in the fact that the elytra are abruptly narrowed at the commencement of the decliuous portion, the outer margins of which are separated from the sides by a sharp toothed angle.

Platypus solidus, Walker.

♂. *Platypus solidus*, Walk. Ann. Nat. Hist. (3) iii. p. 261; Chap. Mon. Plat. p. 267, ♀.

♀. *Platypus pilifrons*, Chap. Mon. Plat. p. 265, ♂.

Hab. Ceylon, Dikoya, Colombo; India, Belgaum, Kanara (*Andrewes*). Generally distributed through the Oriental region.

The numerous examples I have seen of *P. solidus* and *P. pilifrons* taken together in different localities in India, Ceylon, &c., satisfy me of the correctness of Chapuis's supposition that they are sexes of the same species.

Platypus furcatus, sp. n.

Piceus vel ferrugineo-piceus, prothorace suboblongo; elytris striato-punctatis, apice infuscato, breviter piloso.

♂. Fronte subconcava, opaca, rugosa; prothorace sparsim fortiter punctato, punctis ad apicem et in medio ante sulcum confertioribus, sulco brevi, anterieus latiore; elytris ad apicem attenuatis et in processus productis, interstitiis vix convexis, subimpunctatis, 2° præter limbum internum seriato-punctato, in apice obliquo opacis pilosis, striis obsoletis; processibus declivibus, divaricatis et angulo acuto separatis, desuper aspicienti triquetris, spinula media longiore.

Long. 4·5 millim.

♀. Fronte latiore, concava, subopaca, rugulosa; prothorace sparsim subtilius punctato, sulco congerie lata cordiformi punctis inæqualibus anterieus majoribus composita circumdato; elytris elongatis, prothorace duplo amplius longioribus, interstitiis convexis, haud alternatis, ad basin modo punctulatis, 3°, 5° ibi elevatis, transverse granulatis; apice rudi, striis oblitteratis, impressione postica in singulo elytro æque longa quam lata, granulata, subtus impressa, margine apicali convexo.

Long. 4·6–4·8 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Dikoya. Several examples.

This species is intermediate between *P. oxyurus*, Duf., and *P. solidus*, Walk., and requires careful discrimination from either. The male differs from *P. oxyurus* ♀ by its shorter prothorax, less convex elytral interstices, and by the apical processes appearing simple when viewed from the side; triquetrous from above; in *P. oxyurus* the reverse is the case. From *P. solidus* ♂ it is distinguished by greater length, coarser thoracic punctuation, indistinct punctuation of the elytral interstices, and the divergent apical processes. It is smaller than *P. Severini*, Blandf., has a narrower, more scantily and coarsely punctured prothorax; the elytra are more attenuate behind, the apical processes are longer, more

acute, and less divergent, for in the latter species they are separated by a broad arcuate emargination.

The female differs from *P. oxyurus* ♀ by the front being shorter, more concave, and less coarsely punctate, the eyes less prominent, the prothorax shorter, with the discoidal cribriform patch broader, and by the absence of an apical tooth to the elytra; from *P. solidus* ♀ by its darker colour, more elongate form, less concave front, the absence of granules at the base of the fourth interstice, the greater depth of the elytral striæ, and consequent convexity of the interstices.

Chapuis had much reluctance in associating the Pyrenean *P. oxyurus* and the Oriental *P. solidus* in the same group, on account of their geographical remoteness and the difference in the shape of the mentum in the female.

P. furcatus is not only intermediate in form, but the female agrees strictly with *P. oxyurus* in the form of the mentum; and his grouping is therefore entirely justified.

Platypus latifinis, Walk.

♂. *Platypus latifinis*, Walk. Ann. Nat. Hist. (3) iii. p. 261.

Platypus excavatus, Chap. Mon. Plat. p. 280, ♀.

♀. Elongata, testacea vel fusco-testacea, elytrorum postica parte obscuriore; fronte oblonga, subconcava, fortiter sparsim punctata, striga mediana brevi notata; prothorace oblongo, sat subtiliter irregulariter punctato, sulco brevi, tenui, plaga magna orbiculata punctis antierius paullo fortioribus composita circumdato; elytris subtiliter lineato-punctatis, interstitiis planis subimpunctatis, 3°, 4°, 5° ad basin elevatis granulatis, impressione postica verticali, impressa, granulata, margine inferiore arcuatim exciso, in singulo elytro quam margine suturali brevior.

Long. 4·7 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Kitulgalle; a pair. India, Belgaum, Kanara (*Andrewes*); Burma, Bhamo (*Fea*).

The length and darker colour will separate the female from that of any other described species in the *Platypi cupulati* except *P. cupulatus*, Chap. It is rather more slender than that insect, has a more concave and sharply defined frontal area; the prothoracic cribriform patch is shorter and wider, more closely and finely punctured, like the rest of the pronotum. The base of the third interstice is raised for a longer distance, and the interstitial punctures are so weak as to be practically non-existent. A typical example of *P. cupulatus* ♀ shows a well-marked fovea on the apical impression just within each sutural angle, which is absent in both females of

P. latifinis before me. Nevertheless, even with the assistance of types, the females of the two species must remain very difficult to distinguish.

Platypus uncinatus, sp. n.

Linearis, testaceus, capite et elytrorum apice fusco-piceis, his ante medium pallidis, tenuissime lineato-punctatis, prothorace latitudine sesquolongiore sat subtiliter irregulariter punctulato; femoribus anticis subtus fortiter angulatis et ad apicem lobatis.

♂. Fronte subopaca, fortiter sparse punctata, striga brevi mediana impressa; prothoracis sulco tenui, marginibus anterie punctatis; elytris præter suturam stria singula notatis, interstitiis planis, impunctatis, 3°, 5° ad basin elevatis conjunctis, punctatis; ante apicem valde constrictis, impressione postica lunata, nitida, utrinque impressa, ambitu superne transverso ad angulos suturales haud rotundato, extus ad angulos postremos acute productos subsinuato, emarginatione inferna sat profunda, lateribus et basi singulatim leviter curvatis, illis versus apicem subconvergentibus.

Long. 3·5 mm.

♀. Fronte minus opaca, striga media variabili; prothoracis sulco congerie punctorum angusta, oblonga, circumdato; elytris subpallidioribus, versus apicem subangustatis, stria suturali tenuiore, interstitio 3° ad basin granulato, depressione postica lunata, subnitida, sparse granulata, supra subcallosa, margine inferiore late arcuato, in singulo elytro quam suturali longiore.

Long. 3·7 mm.

Hab. Ceylon, Dikoya, Bogawantalawa; several examples. India, Belgaum (*Andrewes*).

A very distinct little species. The male is allied to *P. forficula*, Chap., but is less robust, shorter, and much darker at the apex of the elytra; the posterior impression is deeper, being about as long when measured along the suture as the length of the emargination below; this has the sides—that is, the inner margin of the apical processes—and the base (the lower apical border of the elytra) separately curved, the former being slightly convergent and unarmed. From *P. hamatus*, Blandf., and *P. calamus*, Blandf., it is at once separated by the fact that the upper margin of the posterior declivity is transverse and angulate, instead of being broadly and obliquely rounded off at the suture. The female is separable from those of the *Platypi cupulati* except *P. pallidus*, Chap., by the narrow, oblong, cribriform patch on the prothorax. From that species it differs in colour, in its greater length and tenuity, in the frontal striga, the extremely weak

lines of punctures on the elytra, and in the more strongly produced external apical angles (when seen from the side).

The specimens from Dikoya were taken on the Hadley Tea Estate at an elevation of 3800–4200 feet; those at Kitugalle and Balangoda at an elevation of 1700 feet; those at Bogawantalawa at 4900–5200 feet; those on the Horton Plains at 6000 feet approximately; and those at Colombo at sea-level.

XXXVII.—*Note on a West-African Apodal Batrachian hitherto confounded with Cæcilia seraphini of Aug. Duméril.*
By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

THE first-discovered West-African Cæcilian was described in 1859 by Aug. Duméril. Several others have since been added. In the British Museum Catalogue, published in 1882, I mainly followed the arrangement proposed shortly before by Peters, whose classification was based on various morphological features unknown in the time of the Dumérils. Accordingly a specimen from Lagos was referred by me to *Hypogeophis seraphini*, as defined by Peters, whilst a West-African specimen of the genus *Uraeotyphlus* was made the type of a new species, *Uraeotyphlus africanus*.

Professor Vaillant having lately examined the Apodal Batrachians in the Paris Museum, informs me that A. Duméril's *Cæcilia seraphini* does not belong to the genus *Hypogeophis*, but to the genus *Uraeotyphlus*, with which it agrees in the structure of the tentacle, the dentition, and the vacuity between the parietal and squamosal bones, at the same time sending me for the British Museum one of the type specimens of that species.

I now find that the *Hypogeophis seraphini* of Peters and myself is not only specifically different from *Uraeotyphlus seraphini* of A. Duméril, but belongs to a distinct genus, defined below, and that *Uraeotyphlus africanus* is the same as *U. seraphini*.

In a note published in 1880 (Sitzb. Ges. naturf. Fr. Berl. p. 55) Peters pointed out that his supposed *Hypogeophis seraphini* (from Cameroon) differs from *H. rostratus* in the large size of the mandibular teeth, of which there are as many as 14 or 15 in the second row, in this respect agreeing with the specimen from Lagos in the British Museum; and the new genus *Geotrypetes* was proposed. After examining the