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LXXVIII.—On the occurrence of the hydroid Cordylophora in Egypt

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Pyrausta hæmapastalis, sp. n.

♂. Head and thorax deep ochreous, tinged with brown; palpi white below; abdomen deep ochreous; pectus, legs, and ventral surface of abdomen whitish. Fore wing orange-yellow; the basal area suffused with crimson; a diffused antemedial crimson line; an ill-defined discoidal bar; post-medial line forming a diffused crimson patch from costa to vein 3, then strongly incurved and becoming confluent with the antemedial line below cell; a diffused slightly sinuous subterminal band, confluent with the postmedial line at middle. Hind wing yellow; traces of a brownish postmedial line excurved between veins 5 and 2, then obsolete; a diffused brown terminal band rather broad at costa, narrowing to tornus; cilia whitish at tips.

BRAZIL, Itaparica, 3 ♂ type. *Exp.* 14 mm.

Pyrausta flavibrunnealis, sp. n.

♂. Head and thorax pale yellowish brown; frons with lateral white streaks; palpi white below; fore and mid tibiae streaked with white, the tarsi and hind legs white; abdomen ochreous white. Fore wing narrow, the costa rather concave; ochreous yellow, the costal area suffused with brown and the costal edge white beyond middle; antemedial line brown, rather diffused, oblique from costa to submedian fold; rather diffused brown spots in end of cell and on discocellulars conjoined to the brown costal area; postmedial line brown, rather diffused, excurved from costa to vein 2, then retracted to lower angle of cell and erect to inner margin; terminal area suffused with brown; cilia white at tips. Hind wing ochreous yellow; traces of a diffused brownish postmedial line on costal half; termen suffused with brown except towards tornus; cilia white.

BRAZIL, Bahia, 1 ♂ type. *Exp.* 16 mm.

LXXVIII.—*On the Occurrence of the Hydroid Cordylophora in Egypt.* By CHARLES L. BOULENGER, B.A.

DURING our recent expedition to the Fayûm Province of Egypt, Dr. Cunningham and I found the hydroid *Cordylophora* to occur in great abundance in the brackish waters of Lake Qurun.

Since our return I have carefully examined the specimens we collected and compared them with material from the

Norfolk Broads; as the result I can unhesitatingly pronounce them to belong to the common species *C. lacustris*, originally discovered by Allman in the docks of London and Dublin.

This is the first record of the genus from Africa. In Lake Qurun the hydroid was found in a variety of positions: on water-weeds, on tamarisk-stumps, and on the under side of rocks and large stones at the water's edge; in the latter position, shaded from the light, the colonies reached their greatest development.

The chief feature of the *Cordylophora* from Lake Qurun is the great vigour of the colonies, the hydrocaulus in some attaining the height of 8 or 9 cm.; branches of the third order are common and as many as three or four gonophores are frequently found below one lateral hydranth. The great development of the colonies is no doubt due to the salinity of the water, which, although not very high (1·34 per cent.), evidently suits the hydroid admirably, and the *Cordylophora* certainly shows no tendency to invade the freshwater canals which enter the lake; I made a careful examination of reeds and logs of wood at the mouth of the "Wadi," and never found the hydroid in this situation.

Cordylophora lacustris has not been recorded from the Nile; its occurrence in the Birket el Qurun is therefore of great interest, the lake being nearly 150 miles inland, and at the present day without communication with the sea except by means of that river.

Geological evidence, however, shows that in late Pliocene times the depression in which Lake Qurun is situated must have been of the nature of a large brackish fjord in communication with the Mediterranean; it seems therefore possible that *Cordylophora* first established itself in the district at that period. This seems all the more probable when we consider the present habitat of the species in broads and estuaries.

LXXIX.—*A Synopsis of the Sharks of the Family Cestraciontidae.* By C. TATE REGAN, M.A.

THE Cestraciontidae may be diagnosed as sharks with two dorsal fins, each preceded by a spine, an anal fin, five gill-openings on each side, the last two or three above the base of the pectoral fin, oro-nasal grooves, and the pterygoquadrate articulated to the præorbital region of the cranium.

Two genera may be recognized.