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On androgynous Diptera

Dr. Loew

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The area of the island is about 100 miles in length by 40 in breadth.—*Comptes Rendus de l'Acad. des Sciences*, tome lxxx. pp. 1224, 1225.

On Androgynous Diptera. By Dr. LOEW.

The occurrence of characters of the two sexes in different parts of the body of insects has been noticed chiefly in those orders which are generally collected, and more especially in the Lepidoptera. Nearly 30 years ago (in 1846) Dr. Loew described (Stett. ent. Zeit. vii. p. 302) an androgynous specimen of *Beris nitens*, Latr., in which the head, thorax, wings, fore legs, and left middle and hind legs presented male characters, while the abdomen with the genitalia and the right middle and hind legs were female. This case, which is not mentioned in Hagen's list of known hermaphrodite insects (Stett. ent. Zeit. xxii. 1861), has hitherto stood alone in the order Diptera.

Dr. Loew now describes another androgynous Dipteron, namely an example of his *Synarthrus cinereiventris*, a species of the family Dolichopodidæ from Texas. He describes in considerable detail the distinctive characters of the two sexes of this species, which are combined in the hermaphrodite in a way hitherto unrecorded for any insect, the head, body, and wings being entirely of normal female structure, whilst the whole of the legs display the peculiar characters of the male sex fully developed.—*Zeitschrift für die gesammten Naturwissenschaften*, Neue Folge, Band x. 1874, pp. 75–79.

The Blind Fish and some of the associated Species of the Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, probably of Marine Origin.

Mr. F. W. Putnam, in an article published in the Bulletin of the Essex Institute, vol. vi. no. 12, 1874, remarks as follows on the origin of some of the present inhabitants.

That many or, with two or three exceptions, nearly all of the thirty or forty species of vertebrates, articulates, mollusks, and still lower forms, including a few plants, now discovered in the caves of Kentucky, are of comparatively late introduction, is probable from the fact that they are so closely allied to forms living in the vicinity of the caves. But that the blind fishes, the *Chologaster*, and a few of the lower forms of articulates, such as the Lernean parasitic on the blind fish, may have been inhabitants of the subterranean streams for a much longer period, is worthy of consideration on the following grounds:—

First, the blind-fish family has no immediate allies existing in the interior waters*, the only species of the family, in addition to

* In common with others I have considered the Heteropygii as belonging to the same order with the Cyprinodontes; but I now have, from further information of their structure, doubts as to their close association with that group. This subject will be presented on another occasion.