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Flore de l'Algérie, ou Catalogue des Plantes indigènes du Royaume d'Alger. Par G. Munby: Paris, 1847. Pp. 120. Six plates

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mediocres, usque ad 10^{um} paullatim curtantes; clava conica, acuminata, articulo 10^o multo longior: thorax ovatus: prothorax transversus, brevissimus: mesothoracis scutum longitudine latius; parapsidum suturæ vix conspicuæ; scutellum brevi-obconicum: metathorax mediocris, obconicus, declivis; petiolus brevissimus: abdomen longiovatum, cupreum, nitens, læve, supra planum, subtus vix carinatum, apice acuminatum, thorace paullo longius vix latius; segmenta subæqualia: pedes fulvi, simplices, subæquales; coxæ nigræ; mesotarsi et metatarsi flavi, apice fusci: alæ limpidae; squamulæ fulvæ; nervi fulvi; nervus humeralis ulnari multo longior, radialis ulnari vix brevior cubitali multo longior; stigma minutum. (Corp. long. lin. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$; alar. lin. 3.)

16. *Pteromalus Eurypon*, fem. *Ater*, abdomen cupreum, antennæ piceæ, pedes fulvi, tarsi flavi, alæ limpidae.

Corpus convexum, atrum, parum nitens, scitissime squameum, pilis albis hirtum: caput transversum, breve, magnum, thorace multo latius; vertex latus; frons impressa, abrupte declivis: oculi rufi, mediocres, non extantes: antennæ piceæ, subclavatæ, thorace longiores; articulus 1^{us} fulvus, longus, gracilis; 2^{us} cyathiformis; 3^{us} et 4^{us} minimi; 5^{us} et sequentes mediocres, usque ad 10^{um} paullatim curtantes; clava longiconica, acuminata, articulo 10^o duplo longior: thorax ovatus: prothorax transversus, brevissimus: mesothoracis scutum longitudine latius; parapsidum suturæ vix conspicuæ; scutellum brevi-obconicum: metathorax mediocris, obconicus, declivis: petiolus brevis: abdomen longiovatum, nitens, læve, cupreum, viridi et æneo-varium, supra depressum, subtus carinatum, apice acuminatum, thorace paullo longius et angustius: pedes fulvi, simplices, subæquales: coxæ nigræ; mesotarsi et metatarsi flavi, apice obscuriores: alæ limpidae; squamulæ piceæ; nervi fulvi; nervus humeralis ulnari multo longior, radialis ulnari paullo brevior cubitali longior; stigma minutum. (Corp. long. lin. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$; alar. lin. 2.)

[To be continued.]

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Flore de l'Algérie, ou Catalogue des Plantes indigènes du Royaume d'Alger. Par G. MUNBY: Paris, 1847. Pp. 120. Six plates.

THIS account of the plants of French Africa is the work of a well-known English botanist who has settled in Algeria. It is a valuable contribution towards our knowledge of the flowering plants of the great Mediterranean province. Our acquaintance with the Algerine flora has hitherto been derived mainly from the admirable 'Flora Atlantica' of Desfontaines, published in 1798. During 1842 and 1843 the botany of Algeria was explored by the Members of the Scientific Commission, under the late M. Bory St. Vincent, sent by the French Government. The botanical researches were conducted chiefly by M. Durieu, and have not as yet been published. Mr. Munby has

herborized this region, however, during a longer period—the interval between the spring of 1839 and the close of last year. The provinces of Algiers and Oran have been the chief fields of his labours, and in those districts he has added no fewer than thirty genera and 200 species (including ten entirely new) to the lists published by Desfontaines. Eighteen hundred species, exclusive of cultivated plants, are enumerated in this catalogue. They are arranged in Linæan order for convenience of reference to the ‘Flora Atlantica.’ This is a defect, and renders the book not so convenient as it might be for a work of reference.

The new species described by Mr. Munby are the following:—*Orchis sagittata*, *Galium brunneum*, *Phlomis mauritanica*, *Melissa candidissima*, *Genista barbara*, *Ononis spicata*, *Anthyllis bidentata*, *Lathyrus luteus*, *Hippocrepis minor* and *Cistus sericeus*. There are enumerated also several unpublished or little-known plants, of which we may expect an account when the researches of the French commission are published—as, *Boucerosia Munbyana*, Decaisne, *Narcissus Clusii*, Dunal, *Arisarum aspergillum*, Dunal, *Biarum Borei*, Decaisne, *Anthemis piscinalis*, Durieu, *Medicago corrugata*, Durieu, *Cistus Clusii*, Dunal, and *Helianthemum pomeridianum*, Dunal.

Among the genera added to the Algerine flora are *Epilobium*, *Agri-
monia*, *Thalictrum*, *Cochlearia*, *Coronopus*, *Succowia*, *Morecandia*, *Sida*, *Leobordia*, *Androsæmum* (*officinale*), *Podospermum* and *Geropogon*. Among the more interesting species are *Iris filifolia* of Boissier; *Ctenium elegans* of Kunth, brought from the desert of Angad, whence also comes *Ranunculus gramineus* var. *luzulaefolius*, and a beautiful *Salvia* identified by the author, probably incorrectly, with *Salvia lanata*, Roxburgh, a Himalayan plant; *Phlomis floccosa*, *Helianthemum caput felis*, *Lycium intricatum*, *Convolvulus tenuissimus* and *Rosa She-
rardi*.

It is probable that Desfontaines was mistaken in the identification of many of his species, for we find in such genera as *Ranunculus*, *Veronica*, *Medicago*, *Helianthemum*, *Cyperus* and *Carex*, that many of the species marked by him as common have not been found by Mr. Munby, who found however allied species not mentioned by the French botanist. Thus *Veronica Cymbalaria* appears by Desfontaines to have been enumerated as *V. hederæfolia*, *V. præcox* as *arvensis*, *Ranunculus ophioglossifolius* as *R. Flammula*, *Geranium aconitifolium* as *G. sylvaticum*, and *Bellis sylvestris* as *Doronicum bellid-
astrum*.

Among the plants enumerated by Mr. Munby is the *Nitraria tri-
dentata* of Desfontaines, brought from the desert of Soussa near Tunis. He conjectures this to be the true Lotus-tree of the ancients. It is called *Damouch* by the Arabs, who are aware of the semi-intoxicating qualities of its berry, much more likely to give rise to the fame of the Lotus than the dry and unpleasant fruit of the *Zizyphus lotus*, or that of the *Celtis australis*, to which the infatuating food of the Lotophagi has been in turn referred. The locality of the *Nitraria* would also agree well with the realm of the famous Lotus-tree.

E. F.