



XXXV.—Note on a Paper in 'Annals and Mag. of Nat. History,' vol. vii. p. 315

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Curror's collection, but not having the volume of the French Ent. Soc. Annals which contains Solier's descriptions, by me, I fear to describe this and another *Pimelia* from the Congo, also seemingly new. I may here mention, as it is not altogether out of place, that the *Moluris Pierreti* of Serville, described by M. Amyot in Guerin's 'Magazin de Zoologie,' 1835, pl. 129, seems to me synonymous with the *Moluris vialis* of Burchell, two specimens of which, presented by Dr. Burchell, are in the collection of the British Museum. I subjoin Burchell's description and note, as the 'Travels in the Interior of Southern Africa' are not sufficiently known to entomologists. The synonym is inserted on my authority.

Sept. 12, 1811. *Note*.—"A black beetle was very often met with in our road, and seemed fond of crawling along the ground which had been made smooth by the wheels; for which reason, and its proving to be an undescribed species, I have called it

Moluris vialis, Burchell, Travels in the Int. of S. Africa, i. p. 305.

Moluris Pierreti, Serville, Amyot in Guerin's Mag. de Zoologie, 1835, pl. 129.

"Nigra. Elytra postice, et ad latera, tuberculata, apicibus productis glabris. Macula abdominalis velutina rufa. Thorax lævis.

"In its season it is a very common insect (about lat. 30° 20' 47"), and, in a geographical view, one of a very wide range, but I believe quite extra-colonial*."

XXXV.—*Note on a Paper in 'Annals and Mag. of Nat. History,' vol. vii. p. 315.* By Mr. ADAM WHITE, M.E.SS. Lond. and Paris, Assistant Zool. Dep. British Museum.

At p. 317 of my memoir on the nest of a South American wasp, I have said that it was found on "the banks of the Rio Yancay (Uruguay?)." Walter Hawkins, Esq., of Fowkes Buildings, Lon-

* There are but few insects described in the notes to Burchell's Travels; one however I may mention, as it is alluded to as follows, and the passage contains a note on its habits: "Of insects I found two new species of *Anthia*, to one of which I gave the name of *effugiens*, on account of its very fast running, and of the great difficulty in catching it. This property is common, but in a degree something less, to all the species of this genus which I saw. This one is a transgarpine insect."—Burchell, *op. cit.* i. p. 417.

The entomologist knows this insect as the *Anthia homoplata*, described and figured by Dupont in his monograph of the genus in Guerin's 'Magazin de Zoologie,' 1832, pl. 39.

Mr. Burchell well merits the compliment of having an *Anthia* named after him, as has been done by the Rev. F. W. Hope in Griff. 'Anim. Kingdom,' Insects, i. p. 270. pl. 13. f. 1. (*Anthia Burchellii*): it is the *Anthia exaccans* of Burchell's MS.

don, who presented this nest to the national collection, has written to me that it was on the banks of the "*Nancay, a tributary stream of the Uruguay,*" that the nest was found. He has sent me the accompanying note, which, as it contains some matter that may prove interesting to the curious, I here insert, only premising that I informed Mr. Hawkins that it was a wasp and not a bee that constructed it, as he originally suspected. It was the opinion of the late Professor Audouin, that the *Myrapetra scutellaris* (Ann. and Mag. l. c.) was, like *Nomada*, *Psithyrus*, &c. among the bees, a parasite, and that the wasp constructing it was as yet unknown. As far as I can at present see, I know not the grounds for this opinion of the learned and amiable French naturalist.

"A wasp's nest with a portion of wild honey in it was discovered in June 1837 in the woods situated along the banks of the '*Nancay,*' a tributary stream of the '*Uruguay,*' which takes its rise in the province of '*Entre-rios.*' The '*Uruguay*' joins the '*Paraná*' a few miles above Buenos Ayres, and forms the '*Rio de la Plata.*' This nest was cut off from the living branch of a tree, wherefrom it hung suspended at the height of about seven feet from the ground, by John Whitaker, plumber and steam-apparatus-maker, and Matthew Lawrance, his foreman. The apertures for ingress and egress have been constructed with admirable ingenuity in order to prevent the entrance of rain, which is carried off by a pent-like projection near the avenues to the cellular cavities.

"The principal materials whereof this nest is constructed, are the excrement of the Carpincho and dried rushes and underwood. The Carpincho is a species of Tapir or Water Hog, and is amphibious; they are very numerous on the banks of the Uruguay, and are preyed on by the tigers" [jaguars? *Felis onca.*]

"The tiger is the most powerful enemy the wasps have to deal with, for he springs upon the well-stored nest, and notwithstanding its height, very frequently succeeds in dashing it to the ground; he then shields himself in the thick foliage of the underwood from the stings of the enraged wasps, who usually migrate elsewhere in quest of another home. The tiger then, unmolested, returns to the fallen and deserted nest and devours the honey-combs: the scattered fragments of wasps' nests, thus destroyed by the feline and ferocious inhabitants of the forest, are frequently met with.

"Extreme length, including the twig on which the nest is suspended, 21 inches. The length of the nest is 17 inches, and its depth 11."