

Mr. Westwood also exhibited specimens of the *Saturnia* reared at Malta from examples recently introduced from India as *S. Cynthia*; and he also exhibited specimens of the true *Saturnia Cynthia* received from Major Jenkins, in India, with a ticket attached stating that this was the species whose caterpillars produced the "Eria" silk. The difference between these specimens and those from Malta was so trifling that he thought Dr. Boisduval had scarcely sufficient grounds for making the *Indio-Maltese* species distinct from *S. Cynthia*, as he had recently done in the French 'Annales,' under the name of *S. Ricini*; and argued from the known modifications which occur in the races of the common silk moth, as well as in the *Saturnia Paphia* (which produces the Tusset Silk of India), as described by Helfer, and in fact from the analogy of domesticated animals in general, that if the progeny of a single pair of *S. Cynthia* were distributed over a wide geographical range, in three or four generations, quite as much difference would be observed among the specimens as between these so-called distinct species.

Mr. Stevens exhibited a splendid butterfly, a new species of *Agrias* recently sent from Villa Nova by Mr. Bates.

Mr. Foxcroft sent for exhibition some *Coleoptera* and *Lepidoptera* recently taken in Perthshire. Among the latter were two *Polia occulta*, apparently differing from the general type of that species only in the darkness of their colour, but their larvæ were said to be totally unlike. This statement was corroborated by a note from Mr. Logan, of Edinburgh, read to the Meeting.

#### *Abundance of Noctuidæ.*

Mr. Douglas remarked that the number of *Noctuidæ* this season appeared to be unusually large near London, and he should like to know if this abundance was general.

Mr. Stevens said that on the previous night, at Mickleham, he saw 800 or 900 *Noctuidæ* attracted to sugar.

Mr. Westwood said other sweets than sugar were exceedingly attractive to moths: in his garden *Noctuidæ* abounded about a bed of beans which were infested with *Aphides*, whose excrement, as was well known, formed a sweet deposit; and they also swarmed around some gooseberry bushes, whose fruit, in consequence of the wet weather, had burst.

The President said that in a large conservatory near Alton he had lately seen large quantities of *Noctuidæ*, which, attracted by the scent of the flowers, had entered by the open door and could not find their way out. He added, that Captain Chawner had told him that occasionally, at the lighthouse at Lowestoft, the moths abounded so much at night that the keeper had to sweep the lantern in order to clear them away.

#### *The Society's 'Transactions.'*

Part 5, Vol. iii., n. s. of the 'Transactions' was on the table.

The following was read at the April meeting:—

#### *Description of a New Species of Ornithoptera.*

"ORNITHOPTERA BROOKIANA. Wallace.

"Expansion 6½ inches. Wings very much elongated; black, with a horizontal band of brilliant silky green. On the upper side this band is formed of seven spots

of a subtriangular form, the bases of the four outer being nearly confluent, and of the three inner quite so, forming a straight line across the centre of the wing; the attenuated apex of each spot very nearly reaches the outer margin at each nervule. On the lower wings the green band occupies the centre half, and has its upper margin tinged with purple. The lower wings are finely white-edged. There are some azure atoms near the base of the upper wings. The collar is crimson, and the thorax and abdomen (?) black. Beneath black, upper wings with the green spots opposite the bases of those above, small and notched, the basal one with brilliant purple reflexions, also a purple streak on the anterior margin at the base. Lower wings with a sub-marginal row of diamond-shaped whitish spots divided by the nervures; base of wings with two elongated patches of brilliant purple. Body obliquely banded with crimson; abdomen black.

"Hab. N.W. Coast of Borneo.

"This magnificent insect is a most interesting addition to the genus *Ornithoptera*. The green-marked species have hitherto been found only in N. Australia, New Guinea and the Moluccas, and all those yet known so much resemble each other in their style of marking, that most of them have been considered as varieties of the original *Papilio Priamus* of Linnæus. Our new species is therefore remarkable on two accounts; first, as offering a quite new style of colouring in the genus to which it belongs; and, secondly, by extending the range of the green-marked *Ornithoptera* to the N.W. extremity of Borneo. As it has not been met with by the Dutch naturalists, who have explored much of the S. and S.W. of the island, it is probably confined to the N.W. coast. My specimen (kindly given me by Captain Brooke Brooke) came from the Rejang river; but I have myself once seen it on the wing near Sarawak. I have named it after Sir J. Brooke, whose benevolent government of the country in which it was discovered every true Englishman must admire.

"ALFRED R. WALLACE."

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September 3, 1855.

JOHN CURTIS, Esq., President, in the chair.

*Donations.*

The following donations were announced, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors:—'The Journal of the Society of Arts' for August; by the Society. 'The Literary Gazette' for August; by the Editor. 'The Athenæum' for August; by the Editor. 'Proceedings of the Royal Society,' Vol. vii., No. 14; by the Society. 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie,' 1855, Nos. 1 and 7; by the Editor, M. Guérin Méneville. 'Lettre adressée à M. Jacquelin du Val,' par M. H. Jekel, sur le *Barypeithes rufipes* (Extrait des Annales de la Soc. Ent. de France); by the Author. 'List of the Specimens of Lepidopterous Insects in the Collection of the British Museum,' by Francis Walker, F.L.S., Part iv., *Lepidoptera Heterocera*; by the Author. 'Entomologische Zeitung,' May to August; by the Entomological Society of Stettin. 'Recueil d'Observations de Zoologie et d'Anatomie Comparée,' par Al. Humboldt et A. Bonpland, texte; presented by the President. 'Nouveau Genre