

*Lyprus cylindrus*. One individual, captured by Dr. Power, about six weeks since, in the Isle of Sheppey.

*Trechus longicornis*. One example, found by Mr. Pinder on the Lancashire coast.

Mr. Janson exhibited, on the part of Mr. T. P. Dossetor, four females of a species of *Aphis* recently taken within a few days of each other, and apparently of one generation, and of which, since their capture, two had produced broods of living *Aphides*, and two had deposited eggs. He remarked that he had paid but little attention to the Hemiptera, especially to the homopterous division of that order; but he believed it was an axiom that all the individuals of the same generation perpetuated their kind in the same way, that is to say that they were either oviparous or viviparous.

The President observed that Mr. Francis Walker, who had studied these insects, and who was present, could probably throw some light on this seeming anomaly. Mr. Janson accordingly placed all the specimens and their progeny in that gentleman's hands.

The President stated that on the recent visit of Dr. Hagen to this country he had, whilst entomologizing at a pond near his residence, noticed *Notonecta glauca* rise and seize small insects on the surface of the water. This fact suggested the idea to the juvenile members of his family to attempt the capture of these insects by means of a fly attached to a thread; and so successful was this mode of fly-fishing that in a short time they secured above 100 examples.

Mr. Douglas read the following notes by W. G. Gibson, Esq., of Dumfries, on the capture of *Colias Edusa*, and other species which are usually rare in Scotland, during the past season:—

“Of *Colias Edusa* the first one was caught in a clover field in the parish of Kirkmahoe, four miles north of Dumfries; the next seven were taken in a turnip field near Glencapel Quay, eight miles south-east of Dumfries, near the mouth of the Nith; six were taken at Southernness, Kircudbrightshire, fifteen miles below Dumfries, on the banks of the Solway Firth. One was seen flying in the streets of the town ten days before the first one was taken. Only three females have been seen.

“Two specimens of *Thecla Quercus* were caught last week near here, by Mr. James Browne, Crichton Institution.

“*Vanessa Io* and *V. Atalanta* have been very common here this season. Of the former I bred upwards of 200 specimens.

“Two specimens of *Gryllus migratorius* have been taken in Dumfriesshire this month.”

Mr. Stevens read the following letter, received by him from Mr. A. R. Wallace:—

“Dobbo, Arru Islands, March 10, 1857. — Here I am, alive, well, and hard at work. I have been here just two months, and as I am going into the interior I leave this note to be sent by a vessel which returns to Macassar in April. The country is all forest, flat and lofty, very like the Amazonian forest. Insects, on the whole, are tolerably plentiful in specimens, but very scarce in species. There are, however, some fine things, and I am getting good series of several, including *Ornithoptera* sp., near *Priamus*, perhaps *O. Poseidon*, or close to it, a glorious thing but hard to get perfect; four or five other rare or new *Papilio*s, but all scarce; *Cocytia d'Urvillei*? rather scarce, a lovely creature; also *Hestia d'Urvillei*. For six weeks I have almost daily

seen *Papilio Ulysses*? or a new closely-allied species, but never a chance of him; he flies high and strong, only swooping down now and then, and off again to the tree-tops: saucy my agony and disgust; I fear I shall never get him. There is a fine *Drusilla* or *Hyades* abundant, with numerous varieties; but the *Lycænidæ* and *Erycinidæ* are the gems; I only wish there were more of them; there are about half-a-dozen species equal to the very finest of the little Amazonians. The *Coleoptera* are far too few in species to please me: in two months' hard work I can only muster fifty *Longicornes*, a number I reached in ten days in Singapore; but *Lamellicornes* are the most extraordinarily scarce; I have only nine species, and four of them single specimens; there are, however, two fine *Lomaptera* among them, I hope new. All other groups are the same; *Geodephaga*, scarcely a dozen species, and nothing remarkable; not one *Cicindela*; only one *Tricondyla* (*T. aptera*?) and one *Theretes* (*T. labiata*), with not a single *Colliuris*; two or three fine *Buprestes*, however, and some remarkable *Curculionidæ*, with the beautiful *Tmesisternus mirabilis*, make a pretty good show.

"On my way here we stayed six days at Ké Island, and I got there some very fine beetles, two fine *Cetonia*s, and a *Buprestis* the most beautiful I have seen. Of the few insects I got there the greater part were different from any I have seen here, though the distance is only sixty miles, the mountains of Ké being visible from Arru in fine weather. This makes me think I shall get different things at every island in this part of the Archipelago. Arru is zoologically a part of New Guinea. Of the birds here half are New Guinea species; in the small island where we live many of the birds of Arru never come, such as the two species of the birds of Paradise, the black cassowary, &c. I am going now to the mainland, or great Island of Arru, in search of these birds, but have had the usual difficulty about men and boats.

"I have learnt here all about New Guinea; parts are dangerous, parts not; and next year, if I live and have health, I am determined to go. I must go either to Banda or Ternate first, I have not yet decided which, and shall try and go to the large Island of Wargion, at the north-east of New Guinea, where are found the *Epi-machus magnificus*, three rare species of the Paradise birds, and the glorious *Ornithoptera d'Urvilleana*? The weather here is very changeable; storm, wind and sunshine alternately. I think nine-tenths of the things I am getting will be new to the English collections; with which comfort for our entomological friends,

"I remain yours sincerely,

"ALFRED R. WALLACE."

"*Postscript.*—Dobbo, May 15.—I have returned from my visit to the interior, and the brig is not gone yet; so I add a postscript. Rejoice with me, for I have found what I sought; one grand hope in my visit to Arru is realized: I have got the birds of Paradise (that announcement deserves a line of itself); one is the common species of commerce, the *Paradisæa apoda*; all the native specimens I have seen are miserable, and cannot possibly be properly mounted; mine are magnificent. I have discovered their true attitude when displaying their plumes, which I believe is quite new information; they are then so beautiful and grand that, when mounted to represent it, they will make glorious specimens for show-cases, and I am sure will be in demand by stuffers. I shall describe them in a paper for the 'Annals.' The other species is the king bird (*Paradisæa regia*, Linn.), the smallest of the paradisians, but a perfect gem for beauty; of this I doubt if any really fine specimens are known, for I think Lesson only got them from the natives; I have a few specimens absolutely perfect. I have,

besides, a number of rare and curious birds,—the great black cockatoo, racquet-tailed kingfisher, magnificent pigeons, &c.,—and a fair addition to my insects and shells. On the whole I am so much pleased with Arru that my plans are somewhat altered: on returning to Macassar I shall probably not stay more than two or three months, but get as soon as I can to Ternate, and then to the north coast of New Guinea, where all the remaining species of Paradise birds are found? I believe I am the only Englishman who has ever shot and skinned (and ate) birds of Paradise, and the first European who has done so alive, and at his own risk and expense; and I deserve to reap the reward, if any reward is ever to be reaped by the exploring collector. I think there is good work for three years in N.E. Celebes, Gilolo Ceram, north coast of New Guinea, and intermediate islands, of all of which Ternate is near the centre, and it is certainly one of the least-explored districts in the world, and one which contains some of the finest birds and insects in the world. On the whole I have had much better health here than at Macassar, but I am now, and have been a whole month, confined to the house, owing to inflammation and sores on the legs, produced by hosts of insect bites. Confinement has brought on an attack of fever, which I am now getting over. My insect collecting has suffered dreadfully by this loss of time.—A. W.’

Mr. Moore read a monograph of the genus *Adolias*, in which fifty-two species were described, of which number thirty were new to Science.

The President observed that the number of new and rare species exhibited during the evening proved the unabated ardour of the entomologists of this country.

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November 2, 1857.

W. W. SAUNDERS, Esq., President, in the chair.

*Donations.*

The following donations were announced, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors:—‘The Natural History Review,’ 1857, No. 4; presented by the Dublin University Zoological Association. ‘The Literary Gazette’ for October; by the Editor. ‘The Journal of the Society of Arts’ for October; by the Society. ‘The Natural History of the Tineina,’ Vol. ii., containing *Lithocolletes*, Part I.; ‘Elements of Entomology,’ No. 14; by H. T. Stainton, Esq.

*Election of a Subscriber.*

H. W. Brown, Esq., 1, Westbourne Street, Hyde Park Gardens, was elected a Subscriber to the Society.

*Exhibitions.*

Dr. Gray exhibited some living examples of the case-bearing-larvæ of an *Oiketiscus*, found on a species of *Ficus* at Sydney, and brought to this country by J. W.