

"The pupa state was assumed about the middle of May, within the skin of the larva, and under the web of the spider in whose company both this species and *Tiresias serra* live together under the loose bark of old oak trees. The imago appeared on the 3rd of June."

Mr. Stevens communicated the following extracts from a letter received by him from Mr. A. R. Wallace, dated Batchian, January 28, 1869:—

"I had determined to leave here about this time, but two circumstances decided me to prolong my stay—*first*, I succeeded at last in taking the magnificent new Ornithoptera, and, *secondly*, I obtained positive information of the existence here of a second species of *Paradisea*, apparently more beautiful and curious than the one I have obtained. You may perhaps imagine my excitement when, after seeing it only two or three times in three months, I at length took a male Ornithoptera. When I took it out of my net, and opened its gorgeous wings, I was nearer fainting with delight and excitement than I have ever been in my life; my heart beat violently, and the blood rushed to my head, leaving a headache for the rest of the day. The insect surpassed my expectations, being, though allied to *Priamus*, perfectly new, distinct, and of a most gorgeous and unique colour; it is a fiery golden orange, changing, when viewed obliquely, to opaline-yellow and green. It is, I think, the finest of the Ornithoptera, and consequently the *finest butterfly in the world?* Besides the colour, it differs much in markings from all of the *Priamus* group. Soon after I first took it I set one of my men to search for it daily, giving him a premium on every specimen, good or bad, he takes; he consequently works hard from early morn to dewy eve, and occasionally brings home one; unfortunately several of them are in bad condition. I also occasionally take the lovely *Papilio Telemachus*, *n. s.*

"I have sent off a small box containing four males, one female, and one young bird of the new Batchian *Paradisea*, besides one red-ticketed private specimen; six males and five females of the new Ornithoptera, and seven *Papilio Telemachus*.

"Tell Mr. Gray and Mr. Gould that the *Paradisea* had better not be described yet, as I am making great exertions to get the second species, evidently of the same genus, which will enable a generic character to be more accurately given. The butterflies, I trust, will be both figured, male and female, either in Mr. Hewitson's book or in *Ent. Soc. Trans.* For the Ornithoptera I propose *Cræsus* as a good name. Butterflies are scarce; good beetles turn up occasionally, but nothing very grand. I have now a handsome series of *Buprestidæ*, and a remarkably pretty lot of *Longicornis*; one of my last acquisitions is a grand bronzy *Tmesisternus*, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, a single specimen only. In almost all orders, and in birds, there is a deficiency of species; yet there are so many pretty and brilliant things, and a few so grand and new, that on the whole I am inclined to think my Batchian collection will be the best I have made anywhere.

"Another reason which may induce me to stay perhaps two or three months longer at Batchian is that I have had no fever here, which I have never been free from two months at a time for the last two years before; and I may therefore hope to get my health well established for my next journey to New Guinea.

"The butterflies will make a show-box which will, I think, be admired almost as much as the birds of Paradise."

Mr. Westwood observed that he had little doubt the male Ornithoptera of which Mr. Wallace had given such a glowing description, in the letter just read, was the Ornithoptera *Tithonus* of De Haan, figured on the first plate of his fine work on the

'Insects of the Dutch Settlements,' the hitherto unique specimen of which is in the Leyden Museum, and was seen by Mr. Westwood on his visit last year; he had also little doubt that the female would prove to be the *O. Victoria* of G. R. Gray, figured, some time since, in the 'Proceedings of the Linnean Society,' from a specimen taken by Mr. M'Gillivray in one of the islands of the Eastern Archipelago, and now in the British Museum collection.

Mr. Shepherd thought, with Mr. Westwood, that Mr. Wallace's description agreed with *O. Tithonus*, but considered it hardly possible that Mr. Wallace was not acquainted with De Haan's figure. Previous to leaving this country for the East, Mr. Wallace had carefully investigated the works containing descriptions and figures of the entomological productions of the countries he was about to visit; and it seemed almost incredible that he could have overlooked or forgotten this fine insect.

Mr. Baly read a paper on new species of Phytophagous insects, together with the characters of a new genus, *Paralina*: this latter is closely allied to *Lina* and *Chryso-mela*, and is separated from these genera on account of its produced meta-sternum, which, passing forwards between the meso-coxæ, articulates with the base of the prosternum, entirely concealing the meso-sternum; its type is *Lina Indica*, *Hope*.

July 4, 1859.

Dr. GRAY, President, in the chair.

Donations.

The following donations were announced, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors:—'Proceedings of the Royal Society,' Vol. ix. No. 34; presented by the Society. 'Farm Insects; being the Natural History and Economy of the Insects injurious to the Field-crops of Great Britain and Ireland, and also those which infest Barns and Granaries; with suggestions for their destruction.' By John Curtis, F.L.S., &c. Part I.; by the Author. 'The Zoologist' for July; by the Editor. 'A Manual of British Butterflies and Moths,' No. 33; 'The Entomologist's Weekly Intelligencer,' Nos. 141 to 144; by H. T. Stainton, Esq. 'The Athenæum' for June; by the Editor. 'The Journal of the Society of Arts' for June; by the Society. 'The Literary Gazette' for June; by the Editor. 'Exotic Butterflies,' Parts 30 and 31; by W. W. Saunders, Esq.

The following works were announced as having been recently purchased for the Society's Library:—Olivier, 'Entomologie,' 8 Vols. Boisduval and Guenée, 'Species Général des Lépidoptères,' 7 Vols. and 7 Fasciculi of Plates. Fabricius, 'Systema Antliatorum.' MacLeay, 'Annulosa Javanica,' Part I. Martyn's 'Spiders.' Walckenaer, 'Faune Parisienne, Insectes,' 2 Vols. 'Zoological Journal,' 5 Vols. Spinola, 'Essai Monographique sur les Clérites,' 2 Vols. Guérin-Ménéville, 'Iconographie du Règne Animal, Insectes.' Redtenbacher, 'Fauna Austriaca der Käfer.'