

long-continued domestication, the effort is to revert from a sickly to a healthier condition, and not to a different species." The remainder of the paper was a criticism of the Darwinian theory of Natural Selection, the writer's views being principally enforced by arguments beyond the province of the Entomological Society.

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April 1, 1867.

Sir JOHN LUBBOCK, Bart., President, in the chair.

*Donations to the Library.*

The following donations were announced, and thanks voted to the donors:— 'Exotic Butterflies,' Part 62; and 'Illustrations of Diurnal Lepidoptera,' Part 3, Lycænidæ, by W. C. Hewitson; presented by the Author. 'On the Data afforded by the Burchellian Collection as to the Geographical and Modificational Ranges of certain Brazilian Insects,' by J. O. Westwood; by the Author. 'The Zoologist' for April; by the Editor. 'The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine' for April; by the Editors.

*Exhibitions, &c.*

Mr. S. Stevens, on behalf of Mr. Higgins, exhibited six specimens of *Damaster blaptoides* from Japan: the species appeared to be very local, and to be found only near Nagasaki, whilst its smaller congener *D. Fortunci* was found in the North of Japan.

Mr. Pascoe exhibited, and read the following description of, a new species of *Toxotus* from Greece:—

*TOXOTUS LACORDAIRII.*

"T. (♂) fuliginosus, pube griseo-argentea tectus; segmentis duobus ultimis abdominis, femoribusque apicibus exceptis luteis; tibiis anticis et intermediis dimidio basali lutescentibus; antennis basi luteis, articulo tertio quinto longiore.

(♀) mare vix robustior; in toto nigrescens, sparse argenteo-pubescent; tibiis intermediis et posticis articulis basalibus dilatatis; antennarum articulo quinto tertio duplo longiore.

Long. 8 lin.

"The male somewhat resembles *T. quercus*, but in the comparative length of the joints of the antennæ it is more like *T. meridianus*. The female is scarcely stouter than the male, and differs from it, as well as from all other European species of the genus, in having the third and fourth joints of the antennæ equal, and the two together not longer than the fifth; as well as in having the basal joints of the four posterior tarsi as broad as the succeeding joints: the same is also the case with the anterior tarsi, but the character occurs in other species. In both sexes the two tubercles on the prothorax are strongly marked and have a slightly linear form.

"I have not dwelt on colour, as that will probably be found to vary. The pair from which the above descriptions were made have been for some years in my cabinet, and were originally obtained at Mr. Stevens's, from a collection made in Greece."

Mr. Edward Sheppard read the following extract from the 'Daily News' of the 29th of March, 1867:—

"According to the Melbourne papers just received, enormous swarms of beetles have been noticed lately in Victoria, Australia. In the early part of January a swarm was noticed near Ararat, in Victoria, flying in a column about twenty yards broad, and keeping in compact order. They cast a dark shadow on the ground, and they were an hour in passing the spot from which they were seen. At a certain point they turned off at right angles. The Eucalypti in the neighbourhood of these insects have been stripped of every particle of foliage. Great numbers of the beetles fall to the ground during the flight. The noise they make while flying is like that of a hurricane playing in the rigging of a ship. The colour of these beetles is a dark bronze."

Mr. Bates said that *Anoplognathus* was found amongst Eucalypti, but he thought the insect referred to was more probably a grasshopper than a beetle: it was not probable that Coleoptera would thus migrate in swarms.

Mr. Weir and Mr. Wallace referred to the clouds of *Coccinellæ* which were commonly observed in the hop-growing districts of Kent.

Mr. M'Lachlan mentioned that Dr. Brauer had recently described, under the name of *Pharyngobolus Africanus*, the earlier stages of a species of *Cestridæ*, the larva of which had been detected in the throat of the African elephant.

Mr. F. Smith exhibited an ichneumon, *Rhyssa persuasoria*, placed in his hands by Mr. Bond, which appeared to have worked its long ovipositor, bradawl-fashion, through a piece of fir-wood, in quest of the larva of *Sirex juvenicus*, on which it is parasitic; part of the ovipositor had been left in the wood. Mr. Bond had some years ago found at Bournemouth two ichneumons with their ovipositors so firmly fixed into wood that he was unable to remove them. Mr. Smith had always hitherto supposed that the *Rhyssa* inserted its ovipositor into the holes made by the *Sirex*, instead of making a hole for itself in the tree: if the latter were the rule, how did the ichneumon detect the presence of the larva within the wood, and know where to insert its ovipositor? Mr. Edward Doubleday, however, had told him that he had seen twenty or thirty specimens of the female of a *Pelecinius* which had perished with their elongated abdomens inserted into the stem of a tree, whence they had been powerless to extract them; the male had a clavate abdomen, but that sex had never been met with by Mr. Doubleday.

Mr. Bates inquired whether an ovipositor was not, homologically, a modification of one of the abdominal segments.

Mr. Smith thought it was rather a modification of the aculeus.

Mr. Wallace suggested the converse, namely, that the sting was a modified ovipositor, and that its use as a weapon of defence was a secondary and acquired use.

Mr. G. S. Saunders exhibited a number of *Poduridæ*, found near Stokesley, in pools or puddles consequent upon the melting of the snow, which had recently lain on the ground in the North of Yorkshire for two or three weeks.

The President believed them to be *Podura (Anura) tuberculata* of Templeton, though their shrivelled state rendered them difficult to identify with certainty.

Mr. Wallace mentioned that he had received a letter from Mr. Jackson Gilbanks, of Whitefield Castle, Wigton, on the subject of the distastefulness to birds of brightly coloured larvæ; the writer had frequently observed the dislike, or rather the "abhor-