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"In relation to the human mind Nature is boundless; and though nowhere
inaccessible, she is everywhere unfathomable."

HUXLEY.



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JOHN VAN VOORST, 1, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1880-81.

laterals, and where the Doctor's quick eye and acquaintance with their "casts" had brought *Bledius unicornis* to light. We soon got it in abundance, proving this species not to be confined to the western part of our shores. I had before taken it at Dawlish, where, years ago, Mr. Parfitt discovered it, but I did not then know the little "casts" of sand rejected from their burrows.

In another locality, two miles from here, *Bledius tricornis* was in profusion. The first two or three specimens I found, appear to me to be *spectabilis*, and I am now disposed to doubt the specific value of these two forms. The horn in the males of both this and *unicornis* certainly varies in development, and the infuscation of the elytra is not a sufficient character in itself to warrant their separation.

Here we searched for *Dyschirius extensus*, Putzeys, but in vain; two or three hours' work only yielded three *D. nitidus*, which fell to my share. However, a week after, I had the good fortune, in company with the Rev. H. Gore, to secure eight of this rarity, and Mr. Gore got one more. Our thanks are due to Mr. Brewer, who indicated to us the locality, where he found it twelve years ago.

Having thus got my "eye in" for *Bledii*, numerous casts in my drive and garden footpaths were explored, and turned out to be those of *B. opacus*; while I may mention that while at Dieppe, not long since, *B. longulus* was not uncommon in a sandy part of the cliff.

Other species found at Shoreham were *Pogonus littoralis*, abundant; *Limnaeum*, *Heterocerus femoralis* and *Sericans*, *Philonthus corvinus*.

I have a specimen of *D. extensus*, taken at Lancing, in 1871, but which, owing to its small size, I had not recognised before.

I lately found in Mr. Gore's collection several specimens of *Cryptocephalus frontalis*, Marsh., Gyll.; he had found them at Rusper, in the precise spot where I obtained one when I was in charge of his parish in 1878. This has always been a rarity with me. This is the season for *Lycoperdina*: it is rather common here in puff-balls.—H. S. GORHAM, Shipley, Horsham: November 17th, 1880.

Sitones ononidis in Suffolk.—On the 29th of September, when sweeping in a rough field in the grounds of Tendring Hall, Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, I took about twenty-five specimens of *Sitones ononidis*. It was not until I had returned home and showed the insect to Dr. Power that I knew what it was. Had I been able to identify it on the spot I could probably have taken more. I have no recollection of seeing any *Ononis* in the field; the plant that was most abundant was the common field-thistle. As this is a new locality for this scarce species, it may be worth recording.—ARTHUR COTTAM, Eldercroft, Watford: November 2nd, 1880.

Capture of a rare Hymenopterous insect near Lyme.—On the 3rd of September last, I captured a ♀ of *Didineis lunicornis*, one of the rarest of our fossorial *Hymenoptera*, on the top of the Golden Cap Beacon, four miles east of Lyme Regis. I happened to sit down close to it as it was scrambling through the short stunted herbage near the edge of the cliffs.—F. S. SAUNDERS, Wray House, Lingfield Road, Wimbledon: November 15th, 1880.

Oligoneuria rhenana.—On the 25th of August last, I happened to be at Basle with an afternoon and evening to spare. A thunderstorm at 1 p.m. was succeeded by beautiful weather, clear, and with scarcely a breath of wind. So I proceeded to a locality on the right bank of the Rhine, some three miles below the city, where a

little earlier in the season in 1879, some interesting *Trichoptera* were collected. This year, owing to circumstances not known to me, the insects were not of the same set. But I was amply repaid in another way. At a village a little further on, a stream runs into the Rhine almost at a right angle, and at about 5.30 p.m. I saw *Oligoneuria* flying rather wildly up-stream, but in no great numbers. On my way back to Baale there were also a few on the Rhine itself up to 6.30; but at that hour, as if by magic, the air above the river was one mass of *Oligoneuria*, all flying in a steady business-like manner up-stream, and against the little wind there was. They avoided the sides where the current is slower, and the lowest were at least eight feet above the surface, so the fishes had no chance. Such a sight as this is worth a journey from England to an entomologist. It can be no exaggeration to say that millions passed up-stream before I again arrived at the old bridge. This latter disconcerted the swarm, as it was right in the line of flight, and any number could there be caught in the hand. Even the usually stolid citizens were struck by the phenomenon, so I suspect the swarm was greater than ordinarily. If there were a stopping-point, up-stream, the accumulations there must have been enormous.

One interesting observation was made, viz: that *Oligoneuria* casts its subimaginal skin when on the wing, and does not rest to do it, as do other *Ephemerida*. Mr. Eaton tells me he also has made a similar observation, and is of opinion that the pellicle on the wings is not shed with that of the body, because he could never find this sheathing of the wings on the cast skins. *O. rhænana* occurs also at Zürich.—R. MOLACHLAN, Lewisham: November 1st, 1880.

Charagochilus Gyllenhali macropterus.—The common *C. Gyllenhali*, of short broad-oval form, has the elytra not longer than the abdomen, the cuneus and membrane being abruptly deflected and closely incumbent thereon. On the 26th September, 1879, in Darenth Wood, I swept up an example (♂) which agrees with the characters of this species except that the elytra are not deflected but horizontal throughout and extend far beyond the end of the abdomen, the membrane especially being enlarged both in length and breadth. The antennæ, particularly in the second joint, and the posterior tibiæ are longer than in the usual form. The length of the insect is 2 lines fully. I cannot find that this macropterous form of this species has ever been observed, and I think, therefore, that it is uncommon and worth noting.*

Reuter, in his "Genera Cimioidarum Europæ," puts *Charagochilus*, Fieb., *Systratiotus*, D. & S., and *Paciloscytus*, Fieb., as sub-genera of one genus, to which I see no objection; but he calls this genus *Paciloscytus* of Fieber, which it evidently is not—but of Reuter only. If the names are to be regarded merely as generic appellations which may be used without reference to the application given to them by their author, then any one of them would do as a collective term; in point of fact, *Charagochilus* has numerical precedence in Fieber's "Criterien zur generischen Theilung der Phytocoriden" (Wiener ent. Monatsch., ii, 1858).—J. W. DOUGLAS, Lewisham: November 15th, 1880.

Macropterous forms in the genera Blissus and Plinthius.—In connection with the foregoing note on maximum development, I may draw attention to the interesting

* See the remarks of Dr. Reuter on polymorphism in Hemiptera in the Ann. Soc. Ent. France, 1875, p. 225.