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A New Pseudagenia from Sikkim

Peter Cameron

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FROM

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FEB. 1908

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ON THE VARIETIES OF PYRRHOSOMA TENELLUM AND P. NYMPHULA.

By Kenneth J. Morton, F.E.S.

As is well known, the female of Pyrrhosoma tenellum, De Villers, assumes two strongly marked deviations from the normal form, namely, one which has the abdomen black-bronze, and the other which has the abdomen crimson like that of the male. Mr. Lucas (Entom. 1901, p. 68) names these forms aeneatum and rubratum respectively. He remarks that Dale took the former in Dorset, and he mentions De Selys’ references in the ‘Revue,’ p. 181, to both forms. De Selys there gave no names. Subsequently, however, in the ‘Synopsis des Agrionines,’ 5me leg. : Agrion, pp. 185–6 (separate), the bronzed female is named melanogastrum (from Dorset, Syracuse, and Algeria), while the crimson female is named erythrogastrum. The intermediate form to which Mr. Lucas also alludes is called by De Selys intermedium.

And so, too, with Pyrrhosoma nymphula, Sulzer. The dark form (aeneatum, Lucas) with yellow instead of crimson markings is named by De Selys (l. c. p. 188) melanotum, the localities stated being Madrid, Dorset, and Corfu. I possess it from the Sierra Albarracin, Spain (Miss Fountaine).

The Selysian names must naturally have priority.

13, Blackford Road, Edinburgh: January, 1908.

A NEW PSEUDAGENIA FROM SIKKIM.

By P. Cameron.

Pseudagenia bidens, sp. nov.

Black; pruinose, wings hyaline, a cloud along the transverse median and transverse basal nervures, the cloud narrow in front, becoming gradually widened behind; a wider cloud commencing shortly behind the first transverse cubital nervure and extending to the second recurrent nervure; the nervures and stigma black, Apex of clypeus rounded, its middle with two distinctly separated, stout teeth, bluntly rounded at the apex. 2. Length, 9 mm.

Eyes converging above; the ocelli in a triangle, the hinder separated from each other by a less distance than they are from the eyes. Apex of mandibles brown; the palpi black, tinged with fuscous and covered with white pubescence. Thorax long; the apex of pronotum broadly rounded. Post-scutellum finely, irregularly striated in the middle. Apical slope of metanotum with a shallow finely irregularly striated furrow down the middle. The upper part of metapleure is separated from the lower by a distinct furrow, which has a few
NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

The long spur of the hind tibiae reaches to the middle of the metatarsus; there is a distinct tooth on the base of the claw. The first transverse cubital nervation is broadly roundly sloped; the third has the front half obliquely sloped towards the stigma.

Belongs to Bingham's Section E, a, á. Characteristic are the two distinct teeth on the apex of the clypeus.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

The Entomological Club.—A meeting was held on January 14th, 1908, at the Entomological Salon of the Holborn Restaurant, Mr. G. H. Verrall in the chair. Other members present were Mr. R. Adkin and Mr. H. St. John Donisthorpe. Between half-past six o'clock and 8.30 p.m., when supper was served, over seventy guests had assembled. In his speech after the repast Mr. Verrall made sympathetic reference to the death of Mr. A. J. Chitty (a member of the Club), and of Mr. M. Jacoby, who had on so many meetings of the Club in that room contributed to the harmony of the evening by his brilliant performance on the violin. The Honorary Secretary submitted a list of the names of past and present members of the Club, dating from its foundation by George Samouelle in 1826; this showed a total of fifty during the eighty-two years. In addition to the membership roll a set of forms had been prepared, which, when filled up with the requisite particulars of their respective entomological careers and achievements, would furnish material for a biographical sketch of each member. Such records would then be inscribed in an elaborately bound and suitably ruled volume presented to the Club by Mr. Robert Adkin on Jan. 22nd, 1907. Mr. Henry Rowland-Brown and Mr. Alfred Sich were elected honorary members of the Club.

Symétrum vulgatum.—Some doubt has been raised as to the Hull specimen of this rare British dragonfly in the “Dale” collection, now located in the Hope Department of the Natural History Museum in Oxford. I have lately examined the cabinet containing the dragonflies and find a female specimen with a label, apparently in J. C. Dale’s handwriting, stating that it came “from Mr. Harrison of Hull, 1837.” There are also three other specimens—two males and a female—but these bear neither date nor locality.—W. J. Lucas; Kingston-on-Thames.

Surinam Cockroaches at Kew. — Of late years Leucophaea surinamensis has been noticed on one or two occasions in England. Apparently it has taken up its abode and intends to stay in Kew Gardens. “Handsome is as handsome does,” I suppose; but, much as the authorities there would prefer its room to its presence, it is, nevertheless, an interesting little “beast,” of very elegant proportions, and will not disgrace the orthopterist’s cabinet.—W. J. Lucas; Kingston-on-Thames.

Pieris brassicae Larvae in January. — On January 4th, at Rayleigh, Essex, I found three larvae of Pieris brassicae, which had
apparently just crawled up a timber-built building for pupation; two had already begun spinning themselves up. The temperature at the time (midday) was cold but sunny; the thermometer registered four degrees of frost; since the 1st it had continued freezing. It is remarkable for these larvae to survive for three months, as must have been the case; undoubtedly the eggs were deposited in September, 1907, and most likely early in that month, which would extend their larval duration to nearly four months, and to find them full-fed in January during frost is, I should imagine, unprecedented. They have since pupated: one on the 10th, the remaining two on the 11th and 14th, the transformation, as will be seen, occupying several days.

F. W. Frohawk.

Notes on Eupithecia togata.—Last autumn I fixed a day for collecting larvae of this fine "pug." Owing to the backward season I made the date a few days later than usual. It is advisable to obtain the larvae full-grown, as there is then greater certainty that they will pupate successfully, and one may chance to find a few of the larvae spun up in the cones. When I arrived at the district and had a look round, very few new cones were to be seen; but after further search I found a tree which bore many of the desired cones. They were situated near the top of the tree, and rather difficult to get at. I am a fairly good climber, however, and up the tree I went. To my delight every cone was infested with the larvae; in fact, some of the cones had three or four larvae in them. Never before had I observed so many larvae in a single cone. It appeared to me all the female E. togata in the district had visited this tree to deposit their ova on the new cones. E. togata is not always to be found where spruce fir grows, even although the trees may bear numerous cones. The moths do not always emerge the following June, a good number of them lying over till the second year. The perfect insect is seldom seen on the wing, and is difficult to find on tree-trunks. From 1899 to 1904, although constantly on the look-out, I failed to see any cones which bore traces of the larvae; I began to think the cold, wet seasons had swept them completely away. If June proves warm and there is then a fair amount of sunshine, the chance of larvae of this species in the autumn is good.—R. Lawson; Croft Park, Craigie, Perth, N.B.

Macrothylacia rubi in Winter.—On the 13th January, 1908, I took some hybernating larvae of M. rubi from a turf in the open on which I had been keeping them (eighteen in all). They were then frozen so much that they could be snapped in pieces like pieces of stick; I then put them in a greenhouse about twelve o'clock; by three o'clock they had thawed and were beginning to move about, and on the following Wednesday the greater number had begun to spin cocoons. All except five have now spun up, and these five have produced pupae of some parasite.—Francis C. Woodbridge; Northcroft, Uxbridge, January 22nd, 1908.

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