

ilia pale ochreous, with darker shades, and a dusky line at the base.

Caterpillar (Plate III. fig. 6) long and slender, naked, pale apple-green, with a row of reddish lunules on each side, above the stigmata, and a chain of diamond-shaped reddish blotches down the back: it feeds upon the *Solidago virgaurea*, or golden rod.

This interesting addition to our Fauna was detected in Birch Wood many years since, by the late Mr. J. Standish, sen., and who secured a single example by mothing; but the caterpillar and its food remained unknown until discovered by his son Mr. B. Standish, who found two specimens of the larva in the south-west angle of Birch Wood in September, 1832, which produced the imago in the following June.

XII. *Notice of the Coleopterous Insects observed in the Scilly Islands in July and August, 1836.* By FREDERICK HOLME, Esq., M. A., M. E. S.

[Read December 5, 1836.]

I COLLECTED the following species of *Coleoptera* on the Scilly Islands between July 22 and August 2, 1836: and though I am afraid the list will be found remarkable for little but its deficiencies, I think it as well to lay it before the Society, in the hope of its being subsequently extended, as, I believe, the Islands have been hitherto almost unvisited by entomologists. I must remark that the time and circumstances were not very favourable for collecting, the plant insects being nearly over for the summer, and the small close heath (I believe *Erica vagans*), which forms nearly the sole clothing of the hills, lying so close to the ground as not to admit the introduction of a sweeping-net. The tides too were very high when I arrived, and prevented my having more than two mornings' collecting on the sandy beach at St. Mary's, before it was covered: but for this, I have no doubt that the number of species of *Aleochara*, *Anthicus*, &c. would have been much extended. The species marked with an asterisk I never found in the Land's End district of Cornwall.

Cicindela campestris.—In great plenty on Normandy Downs and Salleykey Downs, St. Mary's Island: also on some of the

other islands, but not in the same profusion: I saw one of them fly with a living worm as long as itself in its jaws.

Dromius foveolus.—In the sands: but not nearly so common as near Penzance.

Loricera pilicornis, *Anchomenus albipes*, and *sordidus*.—All in great plenty: *Anchomenus prasinus* I did not detect, but I found an elytron which seemed to belong to *A. oblongus*.

Agonum marginatum.—Found by dozens under every stone round the great Abbey Pond at Tresco (a large piece of water about three feet deep, the only fresh-water pond on the whole group): not found in any other part of the Islands: the specimens varied greatly in tints, from bright copper to light green.

——— *parumpunctatum*.—Not uncommon: the thorax in all the specimens was a much more brilliant green than usual.

Olisthopus rotundatus.—Very common: the wings were the merest rudiments possible in every specimen I took on the Islands: from the small size of the specimens, I suspected they might prove *Odontonyx rotundicollis*, but I could detect no denticulations on the claws.

Calathus melanocephalus.—Very common in the sand: some were scarce two lines long.

——— *cistcloides*.—Also very common, and varying greatly in size and comparative width: some of my specimens, from their great size and width, I suspect may prove *C. latus* of Stephens's Illustrations.

——— *fuscus* and *mollis*.—Both common on the beach.

Omascus anthracinus and *nigrita*.—I took several specimens agreeing with a pair taken at Penzance some years since, which Mr. Stephens named for me. *O. nigrita* is very common.

Brosicus cephalotes.—Very abundant in holes in the sand.

Amara plebeia, *erythroga*, *communis*, *convexior*, and *atra*.—The species of this genus are so difficult to distinguish by descriptions, that I do not feel sure of having named these correctly; they are all common on the Islands.

Bradytus apricarius.—Not uncommon under or-weed on the beach.

Harpalus latus.—Found among the sand not uncommonly.

*——— *attenuatus*?—A very pretty insect, not uncommon on the Islands, and particularly abundant on a small uninhabited isle called Teon: generally in company with *Anisodactylus spurcaticornis*. I am not certain that I have been right in identifying it with *H. attenuatus*, Steph.

Harpalus æneus and *ruficornis*.—Abundant, as well as the varieties or allied species, *æneopiccus*, *confinis*, &c.

**Anisodactylus spurcaticornis*.—Common: none agreeing with *A. binotatus*.

Peryphus tetraspilotus, *Notiophilus biguttatus*.—Neither common: the *Notiophili* were a variety of a long narrow figure: I sent a pair to Mr. Waterhouse for examination.

Hygrotus inæqualis and *affinis?* *Laccophilus interruptus*.—These were the only species I could find round the margin of the Abbey Pond, above-mentioned, but I had not time to examine minutely.

**Cercyon littorale*, **binotatum*, **dilatatum*, and **depressum*, *Sphæridium scarabæoides*, *bipustulatum*, and **lunatum?*—Found in plenty on the beach on fish bones and other animal rejectamenta. The three first are unquestionably only different states of colour and maturity in the same species, as Mr. Stephens suspects. I have a complete connecting series through every shade of colour: they vary greatly in size. *C. depressum* may perhaps be only another variety, though the differences are greater than in the others.

Phosphuga atrata.—I took a single specimen, on the wing: I mention this from several eminent entomologists, among whom were Mr. Stephens and Mr. Hope, having told me that they were not aware that the insect possessed the power of using its rudiments of wings for flight: I have several times taken it on the wing in the sunshine.

Simplocaria semistriata.—At the roots of sand plants on the beach.

**Hister maritimus* and **quadristriatus*.—I found two or three specimens of each of these under stones in the loose soft sand in the Island of Sampson, but I had no time to search for more: I thought it singular that I did not find *H. æneus* in the Islands, as it swarms in the Land's End district.

Onthophagus nuchicornis, *Dilwynii*.—Not in great numbers: *Dilwynii* most numerous.

Typhæus vulgaris.—In great abundance on the Garrison Hill in St. Mary's, and on other parts of the island, but not in such numbers.

Geotrupes mutator.—One specimen, I think on Bryer Island.

——— *vernalis*, *sylvaticus*, *niger?*, *puncticollis*, and *stercorarius*.

—All common, but the three first, or smooth species, by far the most numerous: *G. stercorarius* the least plentiful of any.

*——— *sublævigatus*.—I took one specimen, which appeared to agree with Mr. Stephens's description of this species: I pos-

sess another specimen which I took on Portland Island in August, 1835.

Aphodius fossor, erraticus, fimetarius, foetens, scybalarius, rufescens, and *rufipes*.—All in great abundance.

**Ægialia globosa*.—A few specimens on the sand in Sampson, not noticed elsewhere. I took at the same time and place two specimens of a small insect which I imagined to be a species of *Psammodytes*, but they were both devoured by some *Cafii* which were in the same bottle.

Serica brunnea.—The season for this insect was over when I was in the Islands, but it appeared to be very common, as I found the remains under almost every stone.

Melolontha vulgaris, Amphimalla solstitialis, Phyllopertha horticola.—The two latter I found in abundance on the Islands, and was informed that the first was equally plentiful in the season.

Cetonia aurata.—In great numbers in the governor's garden in the Star Castle, St. Mary's: but very few in other parts of the Islands. Most of the specimens were of a greener tint than usual, having very little coppery gloss: but one which I took with the others was of an uniform deep glossy black, with the usual white markings, and not differing in any respect, except colour, from the common variety. I had taken another exactly similar, nearly on the same spot of ground, during a visit of a few hours to the Islands in the summer of 1833. It is curious that though this species is found in tolerable plenty on the heath about the Land's End, it is never taken near Penzance, or indeed at any distance from the headland.

Ptilinus pectinicornis.—Common in the houses.

Leiophlæus nubilis, Otiorynchus sulcatus, rugifrons, ovatus, pabulinus and *piceus, Strophosomus cognatus*.—All of occasional occurrence in the Islands.

**Apion hæmatodes*.—Abundant on heath on the Dolphin Downs, Tresco.

Thyamis tabida.—Common on prickly plants on the sea sand.

**Macrocnema marcida*.—This rare species, which is marked as a deficit in Mr. Stephens's catalogue, I found in plenty on the euphorbiæ (I believe) between Blue Carn and Peninnis Head, St. Mary's: but I did not secure many specimens, mistaking them at the time, from the colour, for the immature state of some other species.

————— *hyoscyami* and *napi, Phædon polygoni, Cryptocephalus ochraceus, Coccinella 11-punctata*.—Passim.

Phylan gibbus, Crypticus quisquilius.—Both common in the sands:

Opatrum sabulosum, which usually occurs in company with *Phylan gibbus*, I did not detect : neither could I find *Allecula sulphurea*, though it abounds on the same heath near the Land's End.

**Phaleria cadaverina*.—A single specimen under or-weed on the beach.

Helops striatus.—Found under every stone throughout the Islands.

Lagria hirta.—Not uncommon.

**Anthicus humilis*.—Not uncommon among the gravelly sand, and even under the or-weed, on the beach at St. Mary's ; but difficult to catch, from its diminutive size and extreme agility. I found it last year on the sands near Ryde.

Polystoma obscurella.—The *Aleochara micans* of Stephens's *Illustr.* very common under or-weed, &c. I took one specimen of *Al. Kirbii*, which Stephens has placed as a variety of this species in the second edition of the *Nomenclature* : it appears to differ merely in being twice the size of the common variety, and I have several intermediate specimens.

**Bolitochara xanthopa*, and **terminalis*.—One specimen of each, under or-weed on the beach : the antennæ in *B. xanthopa* are remarkably long.

——— *assimilis*.—Common in the same locality : the specimens smaller than those about Penzance.

Aleochara fuscipes.—Common : I found one specimen in the dry broken carcass of *Typhæus vulgaris*, on the Garrison Hill in St. Mary's.

——— *cursor*?—This species, which is very common in Scilly and on the shores of Mounts' Bay, in dung, under stones, &c. I do not remember ever to have seen elsewhere : it agrees better with the species described by Stephens as *A. cursor*, Kirby, than with any other : but as I do not feel satisfied of their identity, I subjoin a description of my insect.

Length 1— $1\frac{1}{2}$ lin. Shining *brassy* black, with very slight pubescence : *thorax* rather widely punctured, with a polished dorsal line, bounded on each side *at the base* by larger punctures running into each other : *elytra* widely punctured, with a short hair in each puncture, and a large triangular fulvous spot, not quite touching the suture, at the inner angles of the apex : *abdomen* rather broad, linear : *antennæ* and *limbs* dull black ; hinder knees sub-rufous.

——— *nitida*, **Pella funesta*.—Found with the last, but much less common.

Tachyporus hypnorum and **putridus*.—Passim.

Creophilus maxillosus.—This species, which occurs by dozens under every heap of or-weed on the shores of Mounts' Bay, does not appear to be equally common in the Islands: the only locality in which I took it was the beach of the small uninhabited Island of Teon, mentioned above.

**Staphylinus æneocephalus*.—Very common under stones and in dung throughout the Islands, and more particularly abundant in Bryer. It is worthy of remark that I did not take a single specimen of either *St. æriceps*, or *St. chalcæcephalus*, though both abound on the beach in Mounts' Bay, where, on the other hand, I did not find *St. æneocephalus*. These three species appear to me to be very much confounded together in naming collections.

Goërius olens, *punctulatus*, and **morio*?—All in tolerable plenty, particularly the two first:—the one I have named *morio*? bears a great resemblance to *punctulatus*, but is much slenderer. Several specimens which I took on Malledgvan, a bare rock to the west of the Islands, had when alive a strong bluish gloss on the elytra, which disappeared after death: they may possibly be referable to *G. cyaneus*, but having no specimens for comparison, I cannot determine the point.

Ocypus similis, *Quedius tristis*, *Philonthus splendens*, *æratas*, *politus*, *maculicornis*, *sanguinolentus*, and *bimaculatus*.—Passim.

**Philonthus corruscus*.—This beautiful species was not uncommon under stones about the Abbey Pond in Tresco, in company with *Agonum marginatum* and *Harpalus attenuatus*. I have Mr. Stephens's authority for saying that my insect is his *Ph. corruscus*, but in all my specimens the dorsal punctures on the thorax are only four in each row, instead of five: and the scutellum, suture, and base of the elytra narrowly, are shining brassy black, which is not noticed in his description: the abdomen has a slight golden pubescence. The insect standing in Mr. Curtis's cabinet by this name appeared to me to be specifically distinct, but I had not an opportunity of comparison.

**Raphirus rufipennis*.—I am not certain whether the specific name be correct, as Mr. Stephens's descriptions in this genus are not so clear as usual.

Cafius lateralis, *littoralis*, and *tessellatus*.—The two last are evidently only immature specimens of the first, as Mr. Stephens suspects. They are found in great plenty under or-weed, and are exceedingly voracious, preying on each other when confined together in a bottle.

- **Remus sericeus mihi*.—One specimen on the beach at St. Mary's.
(*Vide infra.*)
- **Lathrobium punctatostriatum*.—Under stones near the day-mark,
St. Martin's
- Lesteva planipennis*.—Passim.

The insect I have above conditionally named *Remus sericeus*, is one which I have in vain sought for in collections, and which I cannot satisfactorily reduce to any genus described in Mr. Stephens's *Illustrations*. I was told, I forget by whom, that Mr. Rudd had taken an insect resembling it, in Yorkshire. Mr. Stephens, on a cursory view of the specimen one morning at Somerset House, thought it allied to *Othius subiliformis*, but it is at once distinguished from *Othius* by its closely punctate-thorax, which separates it from all the *genera* of Stephens's family *Staphylinidæ*, except *Achenium*, *Lathrobium*, and *Cryptobium*, from the first and last of which its non-geniculated antennæ separate it, as its depressed body, untoothed tibiæ, and conic-acuminate terminal joint of palpi, do from *Lathrobium*. Under these circumstances, I venture, with great diffidence, to propose it as a new genus, to be characterised as follows:—

REMUS.

Antennæ not geniculate; the basal joint longest and stoutest; the two next nearly equal, obconic; the seven next nearly transverse, equal; the terminal longer, acute. *Palpi* with the basal joints nearly equal, obconic; the terminal rather longer, filiform, acuminate at the point. *Head* oblong, ovate. *Eyes* lateral, small. *Thorax* rectangular, elongate, thickly punctate. *Body* depressed. *Abdomen* deeply margined. *Limbs* moderate, without teeth. *Anterior tarsi* moderately dilated.

Remus sericeus.

Length $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines: dull black, with an aurous pubescence on the elytra and abdomen; mouth rufous; antennæ and limbs deep rufous or piceo-rufous, pubescent; head and thorax distinctly and rather deeply punctured, with a smooth spot on the vertex, and another just above the labrum; thorax with a smooth somewhat raised dorsal callus throughout; thorax and head joined by a distinct neck as in *Gyrophypnus*; elytra flat, quadrate, very minutely and closely punctured; abdomen linear, deeply margined, punctured like the elytra.