

*Note on Coleoptera in Cheshire.*—In January, in the burrows of *Hylurgus piniperda*, I met with a single specimen of *Haplocnemus impressus*. This must be a rare species near Bowdon, as I have met with but three others during the last few years, and these were beaten out of Scotch firs in June. *Egialia sabuleti* occurred in sandy places on the banks of the River Bollen, and also in its tributary the Birkin; and in the same places, under decayed vegetation, I have taken some fine specimens of *Tropiphorus mercurialis*. *Elater balteatus* was exceedingly abundant on birch trees at Carrington Moss, about the end of June. *Phlæotrya rufipes*, 1 ♂ and 2 ♀, superb specimens, I met with in August, on a felled beech tree in Durham Park; along with them I took several specimens of *Abdera quadri-fasciata* and *Melasis buprestoides*.—R. S. EDLESTON, Bowdon, Cheshire, November 4th, 1867.

*Locality for Otiorhynchus maurus.*—I captured about a dozen specimens of this local species on Skiddaw, in July.—ID.

*Boreus hyemalis near Croydon.*—If it be of sufficient importance, it may be noted that on the 3rd instant I found a male and female of this singular insect in moss growing on the ground under furze-bushes at Shirley, near Croydon. The bodies were pale greenish-yellow, which colour, according to Dalman (as quoted by Westwood), would indicate that the creatures are immature; yet they were very lively, and jumped about like *Halticæ*.—J. W. DOUGLAS, Lee, 8th November, 1867.

[Mr. Scott has since taken a ♀ at West Wickham. Through the liberality of the captors all three specimens are now in my collection.—R. McL.]

*Note on Platymischus dilatatus, Westw. ♀.*—The ♂ only of this curious little insect has been hitherto observed. Finding it to be common among sea-weed on this coast, I have made it my business to unearth the other sex, and have at last, I firmly believe, succeeded. Although I have never seen the sexes in coïtu, yet the form which I wish here to introduce so exactly corresponds (barring sexual differences) with the well-known male, that, taking into consideration their peculiar habitat, and other circumstances hereinafter mentioned, I feel no doubt as to the correctness of my conclusion. Both sexes are abundant here, but not equally so at the same time. In the early spring the ♀ appears in great numbers, while the ♂ is only so be found sparingly. At the present time (Oct. 23) the case is exactly reversed. In order to complete the generic diagnosis, I have drawn up a new description, including both sexes.

PLATYMISCHUS, Westw., Introd. vol. 2, Synops. p. 75; Fürst., Hym. Stud., 2, p. 121, 123; Halid., Nat. Hist. Review, vol. 4, p. 167.

Antennæ ♂ 14-articulatæ, scapo intus fortiter dilatato, fornicato, sub-triangulo, art° 3° 2° longiore, oblique inserto, artt. 4—9 sub-æqualibus, sub-globosis, 10—14 gradatim increscentibus, ult° oblongo: ♀ 12-articulatæ, scapo lineari, quartam partem totius membri constituyente, art° 2° 3° longiore, 4—8 sub-æqualibus, sub-globosis, 9—12 clavam formantibus, art° ult° maximo, oblongo. Abdomen ♂ apice sub-truncatum; ♀ paulo longius, apice rotundatum, deinde abrupte apiculatum.—♂ ♀ Prothorax depressus, cum mesothorace arcte coalitus, sutura transversa fere obsoleta; parapsidum suturæ nullæ; metathorax vix declivis, et cum petiolo brevi, crasso, dense tomentosus. Scutellum deplanatum, vix conspicuum, fovea basali nulla. Ocelli nulli. Alæ nullæ. Pedes breviores quam *Diapriis*; femora incrassata; tarsorum articulus ultimus leviter dilatatus.

*P. dilatatus*, Westw., l. c., vol. 1, frontisp. fig. 5: cf. Wailes, Berl. ent. Zeits. 1859, vol. 3, p. 98; Walk., Ent. Mag., vol. 2, p. 117.

*P. niger*, nitidus, capite sub-depresso, thorace paulo latiore, supra parcius

punctulato. Oris partes rufæ. Antennæ ♂ nigræ, scapo, et interdum art° 2°, rufis; ♀ artt. 1—8 rufescentibus, cæteris nigris. Pedes cum coxis rufescentes, femoribus, tibiisque apicem versus, obscurioribus, tarsorum art° ult° fusco. ♂ ♀ Metathoracis et petioli lanugo fusca, brevis, velutina. Long.  $\frac{1}{2}$ —1 lin. ♂ ♀.

The ♂ is sufficiently distinct from every other genus of *Diapriidæ* by the singular form of the scape. The ♀ requires only to be discriminated from those genera having, in that sex, 12-jointed antennæ. These are *Cephalonomia*, Westw.; *Idiotypa*, Först., = *Mionopria*, Hal.; *Diapria*, Latr.; *Lozotropa*, Först., = *Basalys*, Thoms., nec Westw.; and *Glyptonota*, Först. *Cephalonomia*, ♀, has ocelli, the head much broader than the thorax, and the antennæ shorter than the head. *Idiotypa* and *Glyptonota* have the parapsidium suturæ distinct. *Diapria* has ocelli, and a distinct fovea at the base of the well-developed scutellum; also the 3rd joint of the antennæ is longer than the 2nd. Lastly, the ♀ of *Lozotropa* has ocelli, &c., like *Diapria*. The present female insect is abundantly distinct from *Psilus fucicola*, Walk., Ent. Mag., 2, 117, which is a *Monelata*, Först., = *Corynopria*, Halid., with 13-jointed antennæ. I believe the above considerations are amply sufficient to establish the ♀ of *Platymischus*, and to ensure its identification for the future.

I have some pairs to give away.—T. A. MARSHALL, Milford Haven, October 23rd, 1867.

## Review.

*Natural History of Devon*, by EDWARD PARFITT. Part ii. *Coleoptera* (Exeter: W. CLIFFORD; S. STYLES; 2s.).

It is, apparently, the laudable desire of making a starting-point for a Fauna of his county that has induced Mr. Parfitt, in spite of the onerous duties necessarily attending his position at the Devon and Exeter Institute, and extending over all branches of Natural History, to publish the Catalogue now under notice. It is, however, simply as a starting-point that it can be considered of any use; recording, as it does, only the universally distributed (circ.) 1,000 species, with a few revived Leachian obscurities, &c. Such works as these,—undertaken under great difficulties, and probably with the mistaken idea that the application of a certain amount of energy will compensate for a comparatively trifling acquaintance with the subject,—necessarily redound but little to the credit of the author who travels out of his proper sphere. In the present instance, a glance at the "Introduction," and the two pages of Index, bristling with upwards of sixty outrageous mistakes in the names of the genera, will warn the reader that Mr. Parfitt must have had a hard fight in making up his Catalogue;—an idea amply proved by the very numerous blunders of every kind occurring throughout the body of the work. Under these circumstances, it seems almost a pity that the author should have considered it necessary to indulge in schemes of classification, and to introduce certain species on apparently no reasonable grounds. We regret the enforced tone of these remarks; as the Catalogue may still be of considerable use to beginners in Devonshire.

## General Information.

*Monograph of the British Neuroptera—Planipennia*.—Mr. R. McLachlan is now engaged on this work, and will feel grateful to any gentleman who can lend him native examples of the genus *Raphidia*, which shall be taken great care of, and be returned promptly. He adopts this method of asking for materials in this genus, because, the species being so very closely allied, it is only by comparing considerable numbers that definite results can be arrived at.—Address, 1, Park Road Terrace, Forest Hill, London, S.E.