

[1873]

*Miscellanea Entomologica,*

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In the month of January, 1870, I made a hurried entomological excursion into the Queanbeyan and Monaro districts. I was accompanied by Mr. Masters, of the Australian Museum, by whose assistance, notwithstanding the intense heat and dryness of the season, I was enabled to add a number of new and interesting species to my own as well as to the public collection.

Among the captures then made, there were two species of small Carabideous insects which peculiarly interested me. One of these has since been described by H. W. Bates, Esq., in the "Entomologists' Monthly Magazine" for July, 1871, under the name of *Eudalia Macleayi*. This genus has been associated, very properly, by Mr. Bates, with a group of insects named by Lacordaire *Anchonoderides*, and for which he proposes, and with good reason, the name of *Lachnophorina*.

I had previously, in the first volume of the Transactions of the Entomological Society of New South Wales, page 108, described a species from Port Denison as *Odacantha latipennis*. Count Castelnau has since (Not. Aust. Col., 1867, page 16) described another species from Arnheim's Land, North Australia, under the specific name of *Waterhousei*. He also, at the same time, proposed for those insects the generic name of *Eudalia*, but without giving generic characters, and suggested their probable affinity to the subfamily *Otenodactylides* of Lacordaire.

Mr. Bates, in the Paper previously referred to, not only describes the Monaro species, but gives the character of the genus.

The habit of the insect goes far to prove the correctness of Mr. Bates' hypothesis of its affinity to *Lachnophorus*. I found the species *E. Macleayi* abundant close to the water in the gravelly bed of the Umeralla River, a tributary of the Murrumbidgee, in

the Monaro district, and in similar positions in the Upper Murrumbidgee itself, and its tributary, the Queanbeyan River. How far its habitat extends upwards into the Snowy Mountains, or downwards along the course of these rivers towards the Plains, remains yet undetermined.

The other insect to which I referred, a small brilliant, brassy, black beetle, can scarcely be separated from the genus *Cymindis* of Latreille. It was found tolerably abundant under stones on the long sloping Downs beyond Cooma, and in the vicinity of Spring Flat. I subjoin a description of this, and another species which much resembles it.

#### CYMINDIS *ÆNEA*.

Long.  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lin.

*Æneo-nigra nitida*, capite subconvexo, thorace subtiliter canaliculato, elytris viridi-nigris leviter striatis, corpore subtus femoribusque piceo-nigris, antennis palpis tibiisque piceo-rufis.

#### CYMINDIS *ILLAWARRÆ*.

Long. 3 lin.

*Æneo-nigra nitida*, thorace medio canaliculato ad latera marginato, elytris viridi-nigris leviter striatis, corpore subtus piceo-nigris antennis palpis pedibusque rufis.

This species, which, as its name indicates, was found in Illawarra, differs from *ænea* in being much larger, in having the legs entirely red, and in the form of the thorax, which is more regularly rounded, and more broadly margined on the sides.

The two species described by me (Trans. Ent. Soc. N. S. Wales, 1864, p. 111 and 112) under the names of *Cymindis longicollis* and *angusticollis*, do not belong to the genus, but probably belong to Baron de Chaudoir's genus *Xanthophosæa*. *Cymindis curtula* Erichsen is a *Philophlaeus* and *Cymindis inquinata* of the same author is probably an *Agonocheila*. This reduces the number of Australian species of *Cymindis* to three, the two now described and *C. crassiceps*, described by me in a previous Paper.

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form a distinct subgenus. It differs from the most common group of the larger Australian *Feronia*, named by Chaudoir *Notonomus*, in having the third joint of the antennæ much longer than the fourth, from *Rhytisternus* of the same author in the thicker and more truncate palpi, while from *Homalosoma*, *Trichosternus*, *Prionophorus*, *Loxodactylus*, and *Chlœnioidius* of Chaudoir, it is still wider apart.

The sculpture of the elytra is unlike that of any of the family I have seen, more resembling, in fact, that of a true *Carabus* than of a *Feronia*.

Each elytron has two broad, deep grooves, extending from the base to the apex, and in the bottom of each groove there is a fine rounded "carina." Near each lateral margin there is a row of large more or less distant punctures. The extreme apex is rounded, but the sides a little above the apex are profoundly sinuate.

My only specimen of this insect is a female. It was found, I believe, in the upper valley of the Richmond River.

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When on an Entomological excursion to the Murrumbidgee in the spring of last year, Mr. Masters and I captured, in considerable numbers, in the neighbourhood of Mundarlo and Tarcuttah, a species of *Tmesiphorus*, which we invariably found in the society of a small red ant. So invariable was the association that whenever on turning over a log we found some of the ants we knew that a search in their passages would certainly lead to the discovery of some of these attendant beetles.

The ant answers very nearly to the genus *Ectatomma* of F. Smith. It is undescribed, I give it therefore a name and description.

#### ECTATOMMA SOCIALIS.

Long.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lin.

Piceo-rufa subtilissime dense punctulata parce aureo-pubescent, capite quadrato subconvexo subtus hirto, oculis parvis lateralibus ante medium positis, abdominis petiola brevi lata postice truncata, segmentis terminalibus subhirtis, pedibus longis flavis.

I have only seen the worker of this species. It seems to differ somewhat in the size and position of the eye from F. Smith's description of the genus.

For the attendant beetle I propose the name of

TMESIPHORUS FORMICINUS.

Long.  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lin.

Piceo-rufus dense punctulatus aureo-pubescens, capite convexo bipunctato, thorace convexo rotundato, elytris convexis leviter bisulcatis, abdomine marginato postice bicarinato.

This species differs from *T. Kingii* mihi, in being of a lighter colour, finer puncturation, less deep sculpture, denser pubescence less elongate thorax, and in having the 9th and 10th joints of the antennæ of equal size. From the only other Australian species of the genus *T. Macleayi* King. it differs in being of a darker colour denser puncturation, denser pubescence, and in having the thorax more round and less elongate.

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