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an die Auslassung zweier Arten. Es sind von Karsch Einsprüche ganz anderer Natur gegen jene Arbeiten gemacht worden.)

Hiermit überlasse ich ruhig meine Controverse mit Mr. Kirby dem Urtheile der Fachgenossen. Ich bedauere nur, dass er in meiner „Note" nichts Anderes hat finden können, als einen „unprovoked personal attack". Nichts lag mir ferner, als Mr. Kirby's Person angreifen zu wollen. Nur der Sache halber und weil Mr. Kirby sich auf einem entschieden unrichtigen Wege befindet, habe ich seine Arbeit besprochen. Amicus Plato, sed magis amica veritas.

Mr. Kirby on the Hemiptera of Ceylon.

By **W. L. Distant**
(in Purley, Surrey, England).

Any doubt existing as to the perfect justification of Dr. Bergroth's criticism on Mr. Kirby's notorious paper on the Ceylon Rhynchota is quite dispelled after reading Mr. Kirby's extraordinary rejoinder. This reply? consists of an attack on the work of the late Dr. Stål, a commendation of the writings of the late Fras. Walker and a reference to myself. Of the first little need be said; no other entomologist could I think be found in this country to agree with Mr. Kirby's distorted conceptions of the writings of Dr. Stål, which is readily explainable by the fact that the critic is a Lepidopterist and has shown himself to be particularly unfamiliar with the Rhynchota. It will therefore be understood both abroad and at home, that Mr. Kirby speaks for himself alone and the reputation of Dr. Stål has therefore not materially suffered.

The approval of the work of the late Fras. Walker has already been more amply shown. We have an adage „imitation is the sincerest form of flattery", and Mr. Kirby in his Ceylon paper has exactly copied the method of his master.

I will now only refer to what has been stated with reference to the four species of Cicadidae which were described by Mr. Kirby as new and reported by myself to be moderately well known species.

Dundubia mixta Kirby = *Cicada viridis* Fabr. Mr. Kirby lightly touches the fact that he described as a *Dundubia* a

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species of *Cicada*. His denial of my identification can remain as it stands. It is clear at the time of writing he had no idea of the existence of the Fabrician description nor of its elucidation by his „unreliable" Dr. Stål.

Pomponia elegans Kirby = *Terpnosia Psecas* Walk. When I examined these species at the request of Mr. Kirby, at the British Museum, I pointed out this synonymical error to his notice and he compared his type with several specimens of the *T. Psecas* as arranged by Walker himself. I certainly understood him to say he had overlooked Walker's species and he as certainly did not attempt to show any differences. The specimens are all in the British Museum and I therefore fail to see the force of the remark that „no further light has been thrown on this question", and to understand what further light is required.

Pomponia Greeni Kirby = *Pomponia Ransonneti* Dist. Mr. Kirby writes „I think the two insects are really identical". a surmise I think he will find no one to contest.

Cicada apicalis Kirby = *Tibicen nubifurca* Walk. It is now stated that this new species of *Cicada* „may be a small pale specimen" of *Tibicen nubifurca*. It is something to have the generic error acknowledged and as the „types" of both are in the British Museum, any one can satisfy himself as to their absolute identity.

I therefore reproduce with much satisfaction, Mr. Kirby's concluding remark on the subject „so much for the present as regards Distant's identifications of my Cicadae".

I write these remarks strongly as an entomologist, and in no way personally discourteous to Mr. Kirby with whom I have had a long acquaintance and for whom I have a sincere respect. But the strictures he has compelled me to make in reply to his illadvised communication are those of one who has studied for years the Rhynchota and endeavoured to increase our knowledge of the same, and who knowing the difficulties of the subject would deprecate „hasty and perfunctory work". I therefore earnestly entreat Mr. Kirby to leave — for a time at least — the Rhynchota alone, and I will promise him the sincere gratitude of all students of the order.

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