

## Die Gattungsnamen *Erigone*, *Ericia* und *Nordenskiöldia*

sind in der Zoologie wiederholt verwendet worden. — *Erigone* ist prioritätsberechtigt in der Araneologie, ist aber nachher in die Dipterologie eingeführt worden (von Robineau-Desvoidy 1830); diese Dipterengattung wurde 1903 von Speiser in *Varichaeta* umgetauft (in: Berl. Ent. Zeitschr. 1903, p. 69), wodurch aber bloss ein neues Synonym geschaffen wurde (cfr. Katalog der palaearkt. Dipteren III, p. 210). Dann wurde 1850 eine Molluskengattung *Erigone* genannt (von Albers in: Die Heliceen, Berlin 1850, p. 92); für diese schlage ich den neuen Namen *Helerigone* Strd. vor.

Der Name *Ericia* wurde zuerst einer Molluskengattung gegeben (von Moquin-Tandon in: Paciot Cyclostom. 1848), dann einer Lepidopterengattung (von Walker in: List Heterocera British Mus. 35, p. 1802 (1866); letztere nenne ich *Ericiana* Strd. — Nebenbei sei erwähnt, dass es ausserdem eine Gattung *Erizia* gibt (unter Sauria, von Gray in: Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1864 aufgestellt).

*Nordenskiöldia* ist prioritätsberechtigt in der Coleopterologie (von Sahlberg in: Kgl. Sv. Vet. Akad. Handl. (2) XVII, No. 4, p. 96 (1880) aufgestellt). Für die 1907 von Koenike (in: Abhandl. naturw. Ver. Bremen, Bd. 19, p. 127) geschaffene Hydrachnidengattung *Nordenskiöldia* (nach dem finnischen Zoologen Erik Nordenskiöld benannt) schlage ich den Namen *Erikiä* Strd. vor.

Em b r i k S t r a n d (Berlin).

## The Old Inhabitants of a Jerusalem Garden.

by A. H. Swinton.

(Continuation).

The Jewish antiquities of Jerusalem will be found to consist in long and large stones fitted with a nice bevel that enclose the Temple area, in the centre of which is a stone said to be the threshing floor of Ornan or Araunah, the Jebusite chieftain, under which there is a well; it is covered by the mosque known as the Dome of the Rock: there is also a vault with Roman and Egyptian columns. Below in the Kedron ravine stand a row of grey monuments with Doric and Ionic sculpture and away to the north lie storied, empty sepulchres some of which have their entrances closed by a millstone running in a groove; near Bethany, so called, are the remains of small houses and olive presses such as gave a name to Gethsemane. At the side of the roadway leading there, near the north-east angle of the town wall, where the Ateuchus sacer, or mortuary beetle, may be seen rolling its ball among the moth mulleins that rise like towers of perfume, I one day unearthed some pieces of lacquered tiles similar to those of which the mosque is fabricated, and certain strips of copper that had been used to colour them. Proceeding onward, under the ochery town wall, the jasper bulwarks of the hynnai, I came to a plot of bearded wheat overrun with wiry darnel, *Lolium temulentum*, or tares, and here the *Centurea calcitrapa*, or star thistle, was also sadly abundant; known to the Romans as *Tribolus*, from its heads resembling a ball with spikes used in warfare this gave rise to a saying: 'Do men gather figs of thistles'. It was the commen-

cement of June, down in the valley of the summer dry Kedron, as of old at Bethlehem Ephratah, when Ruth was among the gleaners, cows and mules were circling round the heaped up threshing floors and raising clouds of chaff, recalling the judgement on evil doers; and now in the gardens where the clayey soil was cleft by the drought, Solomon's Ants, identified by Mr. Edward Saunders as *Aphaenogaster barbara*, were heaping up mimic tumuli of grass glums and medic seeds; another black ant, *Myrmecocystus viaticus*, was running about excitedly with its abdomen elevated, and a larger, solitary, more or less orange kind, *Camponotus maculatus*, crawled more slowly where the shadows fell: All were busy and industrious, beneath a pale blue sky unclouded and wearisome from its monotony; but it does not appear it is always so, for once during wheat harvest Samuel undertook to say there would be a thunderstorm with rain, and this very year the early spring corn had sprouted in Moab.

A minute Aley rodes, that resembled a small white moth, which I noticed one day spin round and round like a dancing dervish on a leaf, scattering abroad a white powder, brought to mind that insects have been useful to man. The Kermes, or crimson worm, is only found in Palestine where holm oak grows; and the Coccus discharges the juice of the tamarix in the southern desert, which, being boiled and strained, furnishes honey: Aleppo is famous for its ink galls; others are injurious. No doubt the heavily armed Roman soldier complained of the rust on his armour caused by the corroding sea breeze that in ordinary years blows cold on the hills of Judea throughout the parching heat of summer, and the high priests in the pride of their scarlet vestments had no immunity from the attacks of the clothes moths which abound sporadically: I searched for a specimen in the lodging house and could only discover the little grey, spotted, *Tinea subalbidella*, a whitish relative of our brownish fur moth, described by Stainton, which being peculiar to Jerusalem may have had the honour of fretting the garment. An ever present plague consisted in three kinds of gnat, the common *Culex pipiens*, a fulvous relative, and a black and white spotted gnat; besides which there were the sand-flies, or *Cicindela*, that annoyed the Crusaders; little live sparks that descended unawares like snowflakes. One day when I accompanied a Miss Bowyer, who had a visit to pay on Miss Crawford, a well known resident, at Bethany and a truly charitable lady; horse-flies came and stuck on the flanks of the mule like hobnails just as we were passing the slaughter house where Pharoah's hens were gathered, these were somewhat larger and yellower than the English *Hippobosca equina* and more variegated, not unlike the Indian variety that Westwood named *maculata*.

At the end of the diningroom of the lodging house, near a niche once occupied by a statuette of the Virgin, hung a faded palm bough; young palms, *Phoenix dactylifera*, resembling from their seed leaves broad-leaved plantains, often sprang up from the date stones cast on the refuse heap, and my landlady brought in one she kept in the kitchen, that was growing in a biscuit tin, to show to her visitors: but save two or three lank trees in the little town of Jerusalem, which in their old age rarely matured their fruit, the emblem of Juda that furnished the festive booth and warrior's wreath was absent from the landscape. In Nehemiah's day it adorned the bare slope of Olivet. Where the Jordan seen from its summit meanders along its sandy hollow fringed with willows, Archelaus built a palace and in the gardens he irrigated from the Fountain of Elisha, he planted many



kinds of palm tress, the better sort of which when pressed yielded an excellent kind of honey, not much inferior to that of the bees who wandered among the oleanders and Balm of Gilead that Alexander the Great saw drop sweet fragrance. „It was indeed divine, when snow covered the hills of Judea the people went about shere clothed in linen“, says Josephus. Kingfishers and tun birds glanced through the alcoves, the voice of the turtle dove was heard there when spring returned and the bulbul warbled its praise.

In a picture of the Betrayed by Fra Angelico painted in the first half of the fifteenth century is seen a hill fashioned like a lime kiln with a basin-shaped top: this is the Hill of Beans that rises on the north-east of Jerusalem, and its reservoir of masonry collected the winter rain; thence when summer had parched the ground, water was allowed to run down and refresh the plants intended for the mess of pottage: Virgil alludes to this custom. One day near the Hill of Beans I saw some bees, which Mr. Edward Saunders pronounced to be a variety of the common Hive Bee, they were smaller than those kept in England, with whiter hair and longer antennae, Canon Tristram says that these are the kind Latreille called *faciata*. Sir Gardener Wilkinson found them to be the ordinary hive bee in Egypt, which the Reverend W. Kirby remarks must have been kept ages before our brown bees. Whether these blond bees produced the honey the rocks yielded and the trees distilled, or whether they were the property of a gentleman who had his hives brought over from Bethlehem to derive the benefit of the purple-flowering *Poterium spinosum* that replaces the heath on the hills south of the Lebanon, I am at a loss to conjecture. Perhaps their elongate organs of scent are adapted to appreciate the mingled insence of *Ononis natrix*, *Heliotropium rotundifolium* and *Teucrium rosmarinifolium*, that confers on the native honey the flavour of that of Hybla or Hymettus, but anyone expecting to breathe all the unguents of the merchant on the hills of Judea would be mournfully disappointed; before I came to the lodging house I was told a Mr. Hughes, well known at Jerusalem, established a laboratory there to discover an appropriate essence for olive oil soap, but I am not aware of any startling results.

This was not a year of wonder; when the sea breeze ceases and while the sirocco breathes from the east, Pharaoh's Vultures, *Neophron percnopterus*, that look like white and black crows, wing to the carrion with open beak, and pillars of dust come whirling up from the sandy desert. The time to sound the trumpet on Zion had not come and I never saw less injury done by the insect population, save that in dusty corners of the vineyard the leaves were drilled with shot holes cut out by the caterpillar of the little coppery-black burnet moth, *Ino Ampelophaga*, which I can only imagine to be the shearing or bending palmerworm, the *Gazom* of the prophet Joel; I saw no other but a solitary one with a horn that became a pretty sphinx moth, *Chaerocampa celerio*. When Amos laments; „I have smitten you with blasting and mildew, or Jerakon, the multitude of your gardens and your fig trees and your olive trees hath the palmerworm devoured“, and Haggai gives the precedence of the hail to the mildew: Thomson comes to the conclusion they are alluding to the silvery grey mould that some years destroys the grapes and the vintage. The olive stumps the camels brought to the door for firiwood contained the grubs of the long-antenned *Cerambyx heros* and a Buprestid beetle, but no one fearful of an earthquake sat up in the summer evenings to hear the stone cry out of the wall and the coleopteren

reply in the timber; indeed Judea in historical times has not suffered from seismic shocks to the same extent as the borders of the Sea of Galilee situated on the edge of the blue-black lava of the Hauran, where Nazareth hangs on the crest of an outlying volcano: Josephus could only call to mind one exceptionally severe earthquake, that apparently of B. C. 31, the year of the naval battle of Antium, when houses fell and there was a destruction of cattle. It is in winter that the thunder peals over Zion — the Romans recognised a god of thunder.

When making a tour of the garden in the morning sunshine I saw, an *Aceridium tartaricum* fly out of the Pepper Tree, and as I subsequently saw a newly emerged individual with limp wings clinging to a young roadside plane in the suburbs of Brindisi on the seventeenth of September, I am under an impression that it passes the winter in the mature state. It is the largest Mediterranean locust and this and its bush frequenting habit proclaim it to be the Gob Gobay, or Great Grasshopper of the prophet Nahum, that he names an Assyrian captain. It must have been at this moment a man crying Toot, or mulberries, came to the door; the dogs and cats had licked the plate clean and, noticing his opportunity, he went off with it: presently he reappeared saying that another man had stolen the same and that he had gone to the rescue. Naturally he wished to be rewarded: it was considered a test of faith to believe that if you had confidence in the command the sycamine tree would be plucked up and cast into the sea; and decision of character is essential in such circumstances.

At the close of the summer, when the watch dogs lay panting at the door and pained with thirst devoured the herbage and wall pellitory, Jerusalem became as it were a cauldron among the hills, where all was glowing save the icy sea wind that howled in gusts; black haired goats strayed over hill and dale browsing on sticks and straws, and what time the siesta invited to slumber, young men saw visions and old men dreamed dreams, the herbage lay sere except where here and there a tuft of Bermuda grass retained its green, the sky was brass and the earth iron, the red clay was baked and no insects were stirring save a dusky winged fly; *Anthrax suffusa*, that skimmed over its surface like the image of death. The prickly burrs of the *Daucus aureus* covered the garments of the pedestrian and all was barren from Dan unto Beersheba. In the middle of August the wind veered north and the heat became burning. I then found myself in the narrow gorge of dubious name that runs down to the muddy track of the Kedron. Under the south-eastern angle of the town wall I found potsherds and on the opposite side a steep bank rose up abruptly. „I clambered up it and read over the entrance to a sepulchre, „Tees Agias Siono“; but Jerusalem had long been levelled. I had promised to take my landlady's American servant girl round the sites and I should feel ashamed to bring her here and tell her that David's golden throne lay buried under the town ramparts. A Little Owl was flying among the pleasant shade of the olive trees that in places are hoary with red berried mistletoe; and, near at hand, I saw what seemed to be a blush white rose with purple anthers, which proved to be the flower of the prickly hyssop, *Capparis spinosa*, that not long afterwards was denuded of its leaves by the caterpillars of the common African and Asiatic white butterfly, *Pieris mesentina*. Then when the refreshing showers of autumn followed on the fervid heat the more beautiful melon coloured Idmais Fausta was fluttering everywhere on the Temple area. I well remember exciting chases to capture it, when arab boys shouted Kwager! and hurled stones, the shepherd boy wielded his club to dash out my brains,



the woman watching a marrow plot raised a rock in both hands to crush me, and finally a lithe arab girl thinking my gauze net a desirable acquisition, seized hold of it and did her best to wrest it out of my hands, only leaving go when a man with a fowling piece appeared on the scene.

„Jerusalem!“ exclaims Lamartine, „is Queen of the Desert. Every local name retains in it some mystery, each rocky height reverberates the accent of some prophecy, every cavern speaks of futurity“. Ladies resident at Jerusalem still occupy themselves with the Babylonian numbers and return of the years to their pristine course. One morning I called on a Miss Powle, who I surprised taking lessons in Greek, and she favoured me with a calculation of social interest; a Spanish Jewess, conversant in a Babel of languages, who I chatted with in the afternoon on a seat in front of the Russian buildings, where the church bells were clattering their tune of Kolokolof, informed me she was confident the world was coming to an end, and as she said so I saw her dark eyes glitter with terror. What is remarkable, the prophetic dates of divines calculated by lunations and generally believed in, prove in many instances to be the astronomical years of most and fewest sunspots. The authority, according to Mr. Gratton Guinness, has been that rare book written by the Swiss astronomer M. de Cheseaux, who found that 1260 and 2300 deduced from the Book of Daniel were more accurate numbers for calculating the return of the eclipses than the 19 years of Meton, and when added to the date of the Hegira A. D. 622, or to the ecclesiastical decrees of the Roman emperors in A. D. 533 and A. D. 607, the former brings us to the French Revolution and troubles in Turkey. Results that suggest the devious circuit of the moon is dependant on the wax and wane of the sunspots. It is a certain sign, said the poet Virgil, when the sun rises with spots upon its face; and then mariners in all ages have feared a tempest. Of late certainly cyclones and heat waves have followed the appearance of large groups and a clear sun has announced a frost. In Saint Luke's gospel we alone read „And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring“. When we read in the older prophets that before the day of tribulation the sun will be turned into sackcloth and the moon into blood, the meaning is less definite; both sun and moon appear red during a fog or dust storm, when the moon eclipses the sun it is darkened and when the earth eclipses the moon it is rust coloured. We have seen gorgeous sunsets when the sun has been spotted, and were it extinguished probably the moon would reflect a red light. There is no reason why the sun should not grow dark and leave our earth encased in ice. But there are those in the pulpit and out of it, who think it will come into collision with a comet, a falling star, or meteorite; or dissolve in fire.

Then as to the portents, the signs of the seasons, the plagues of locusts, the earthquakes and famines, whose periodicity can be investigated by the naturalist. One day some arab girls brought round the door a litter of sandy and dun-coloured rabbits, for which they were offered a German half piaster stamped with a plough on the reverse: they said it was a bad one and wished a metallic, with which they were so pleased that they confessed they wished the piaster also. When Canon Tristram went down from Jerusalem to Jericho he remarked that in the wilderness of Judea the sand partridges took the place of their more strongly marked counterpart on the hills; that the hare was toned down to the prevailing russet and that the foxes and larks were

light brown: here of old were villages named after the partridge sand lionesses and an ascent of brown scorpions. The flying locusts destructive in Syria have the tint of the desert sand: the arabs tell you they know of two destructive kinds the yellow, flying, Gerad tēyar or nedyak; and the whitish, devouring. Gerad sahaf: Nahum, who with the other Jewish prophets called the Assyrian soldiers locusts, told them to make themselves „many as the Jelek and make themselves many as the Arbeh.“ The first, the Jelek, is no doubt the common plague on the coast of the Mediterranean *Staronotus Maroccanus*, the leaping, licking cankerworm that Jerome says congregates, and which Nahum says increases, spreadeth itself, and fleeth away. Like our meadow grasshopper, its males when arrived at maturity have a minute comb on the inner side of the shank of either hind leg, which when these are fiddled over the veins of the fore-wings, causes them to resound like a violin. The prophet Jeremiah threatens Babylon and says, „Surely I will thee with men as with the cankerworm and they shall lift up a shout against thee“, and calls to the horses of Ararat, Minni and Askenaz, to come up as the prickly cankerworm. I did not see it at Jerusalem. The larger, greyer *Schistocerca peregrinum* is not musical, but is said to make a patter, when flying, with its long wings. The prophet Joel may be understood to say, „Like the noise of chariots on the tops of hills“, mountains do not exist, „do they leap, and their noise is like a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble.“ A pink variety of the Pilgrim Locust swarms in central and southern Africa, where it is known as the Red Locust. The Migratory Locust, *Pachytylus migratorius*, Doctor Festa met with in the Lebanon. It wafted north to England in little flocks in 1842; from 1846 to 1849; and from 1857 to 1859; in 1864, 1868 and 1869; from 1874 to 1876. About 1859 I saw one at Bath in Somersetshire.

„It would be difficult not to recognise the millenium of Isaiah in the gradual progress seen in the suburbs of Jerusalem“, said my missionary friend, Mr. Joseph, to me one morning as we passed down the native Sook, or market; „it is depicted in the villa residences adorned with the cedar, acacia, myrtle and olive; the cyprus, the plane and the box.“ And no doubt the time will arrive when the dromedaries will no longer come roaring with loads of building stones and the white asses for ladies; Balaam donkeys of Egyptian mettle and lame horses, will become a past creation. Now, the locusts are rather a curiosity than a terror; they are seldom seen; even the prophet Joel asks the inhabitants of Jerusalem. „Hath this been in your days or in the days of your fathers?“ Let us investigate their more recent injury to market produce. At the commencement of the last century locusts abounded in southern Europe, and about the year 1816 Bochart encountered a swarm at Naeme east of the Jordan; the arabs called them Gerad Teyer, and it was astronomically a time of most sunspots. In 1827 and 1828 Captain Charles Frankland saw remarkable flights of the *Stauronotus Maroccanus*, a small yellow locust, pass over Smyrna during the hot weather at the close of July; and in 1829 when the rainfall was unusual in Europe, came the year of most sunspots. In October, 1832, Lamartine found the plague at Jerusalem; in 1833, which was a year of fewest sunspots, a flock of golden coloured locusts that shone canary yellow in the sunlight was seen by Major Skinner near Gebel-el-Orab in the Syrian desert; showing that in either condition of the sun abnormal weather may favour their increase.

(to be concluded).

# ZOBODAT - [www.zobodat.at](http://www.zobodat.at)

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Societas entomologica](#)

Jahr/Year: 1910

Band/Volume: [25](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Swinton A. H.

Artikel/Article: [The Old Inhabitants of a Jerusalem Garden. 34-36](#)