

wenig durchscheinend, so wie eine halbe Perle matten Glases. Meiner Schätzung nach kann der Falter höchstens 2 Dutzend solcher Rieseneier im Leibe haben. Das einzige noch dazu fast tadellose ♀, welches ich bisher von dieser Art hier fing, legte nur ein einziges Ei und flatterte sich dann tüchtig ab. Der Falter ist verloren und wertlos, aber das gewonnene Ei erscheint mir wichtiger.

Morpho achilles. Von der am oberen Rio Negro bei 1200 m fliegenden Lokalform dieser Art erhielt ich von 2 ♀♀ die Eiablage. Das Ei ist ebenfalls halbkugelig, aber an der Basis nur etwa 1½ mm im Durchmesser, grünlichgrau und trüb durchscheinend. In etwa halber Höhe besitzt es einen schmalen, rotbraunen, horizontalen Reif, sonst ist es ungezeichnet und nicht glänzend.

Eryphanis lycomedon Feld. Das Ei hat etwa die Grösse des vorigen, ist kugelig, oben und unten etwas abgeflacht und an diesen Abplattungen dunkelbraun, sonst weisslichgrau. Um den grössten Umfang läuft ein breiter, tief dunkelbrauner Streifen, der aber (bei allen erhaltenen Eiern) an einer Seite nicht geschlossen sondern etwa ½ mm breit offen ist.

Antirrhaea philopaemon Feld. Das Ei dieser seltenen Satyride ist fast um die Hälfte kleiner als das von mir beschriebene *A. geryon*-Ei. Es ist lichtgrün, gelblich durchscheinend mit rauher Oberfläche und kleinen unregelmässigen Poren. Die Gestalt ist halbkugelig, der Scheitel etwas warzenförmig erhöht und ohne Poren. Bis jetzt erhielt ich nur von der Gattung *Antirrhaea* halbkugelige Eier; alle anderen Gattungen südamerikan. Satyriden von welchen ich bisher Ablagen erzielte, hatten kugelige Eier, auch die *Antirrhaea* doch anscheinend sehr ähnlichen *Pierella*.

Erycides spatiosa Hew. Am Kamme der West-Cordillere (Rio Vitaco 2000 m) fand ich einst im tiefen Schatten des Urwaldes ein eigenartiges Gebilde; 3 lange welke Blätter, der Länge nach, also dreikantig zusammengesponnen hingen an einem Faden von einem Aste herab; beim Oeffnen fiel eine grosse Raupe zu Boden, aus der ich, aber erst nach langer Zeit, 1 ♀ besagter Hesperide erzog. Das Gehäuse wird von der Raupe nur bei Nacht verlassen. Später fand ich auch kleinere Raupen dieser Art in Blättern derart eingesponnen, dass sie den Rand zu zwei Seiten ein Stück ausfrassen und das übrige Kreisrund nach der Oberseite einschlugen und anhefteten. Die Raupe ist jener von *Telegonus fulgurator* etwas ähnlich; tiefdunkel carminrot, samtartig behaart mit einzelnen längeren, weissen Haaren. Der grosse, schwarzglänzende Kopf trägt ebenfalls einzelne lange, weisse Haare, wovon die mittleren nach vorn die seitlichen nach der betreffenden Seite hin gerichtet sind. Zwischen jedem Segment befindet sich ein keilförmiger, ockergelber Strich, der den Rücken nicht erreicht. Die Raupe wächst ausserordentlich langsam. Die Puppe ist langgestreckt, Catocalenartig blau bereift. Das seltene Falter ♀ gehört wohl zu den grössten Hesperiden der Erde. — Der Schmetterling fliegt bei 1800—2200 m Höhe an sonnigen Stellen im dichten Urwalde, wo er sich, wie viele andere schöne Tagfalter an die äussersten Blattspitzen weit vorstehender Aeste aber nur in beträchtlicher Höhe vom Erdboden niederlässt, plötzlich eine grosse Flugrunde durch den Urwald mit rasender Schnelligkeit unternimmt, um mit tödlicher Sicherheit wieder auf dasselbe Blatt zurückzukehren.

Fast sämtliche hier beschriebene Stadien sind in präpariertem Zustande an europäische Museen übergegangen.

The Old Inhabitants of a Jerusalem Garden.

by A. H. Swinton.

(Concluded from p. 36).

Rake wrote in his journal; „It is very remarkable that the ancient astrologers, prophets and almanack makers, represent the year 1837 of the incarnation as one of the most calamitous“, Galeotti, who lived under Catherine de Medicis, says: „In that year the sun will show itself weak, as if in continual languor, which will prevent it ripening the fruits of the earth“, the clear-sighted James Scott also talks of copious inundations which will drown the West and make folks look about them in apprehension of a second deluge. Varvoust in his *Spectaculum Mundi* writes in a similar style, while M. Arago taking for his basis the late eclipse of the moon is of opinion that the bad weather will continue until October.“ On the first of January, just before sunset, a quiet Sabbath evening of this same year, cries of Hezzy! the earthquake! were heard, Safed was ruined and Tiberias shattered, and the villages on the north and west of the Sea of Galilee were more or less annihilated. As indicated by the astrologers, this was a year of most sunspots when wide-spread earthquakes frequently, but not invariably, happen. The last remarkable one that at Aleppo on the 12 of August, 1822, came the year before the one when there were fewest. Joel says, „The sun and moon shall be darkened, the stars shall withdraw their shining and the heaven and earth shall shake.“ Isaiah is more explicit, „For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.“ Amos indeed has claims to have predicted the drought on Carmel and the earthquake that rent the temple at Jerusalem when King Uzziab was officiating two years before hand, and Elijah tells us that a wind announced an earthquake and an eruption of Horeb, as is often the sequence. Some have said the rainfall, lunar or planetary attractions, are concerned.

The young locusts seem to be the Geb or Chagol that Amos tells us appeared before the rains of spring had ceased at the beginning of the shooting of the latter growth after the king's mowing; probably where he was gathering sycamore figs, or perchance where the orange and violet mist shrouds the hills of Tekoa at noon, when black goats and fat-tailed sheep come to drink beside the still waters of the Pools of Solomon, where the green frogs croak among the squirting gourds. Thomson tells us that in the spring of 1845 the locusts came in rolling masses to Abeih on the Lebanon, where they stripped the vines and left the fig branches shining silvery white. The next year 1846, all kinds of strange insects commenced to come winging north over Europe; 1847 brought the cholera: 1844 was the corresponding year of fewest sunspots and 1848 that of most, in whose political troubles Doctor Cumming said in his Covent Garden sermon, the Great Tribulation was poured forth. It used to be said the Doctor was so confident regarding the end of the world that he eventually determined to take in his coals by the scuttle.

Afterwards, 1855, a year of fewest sunspots, brought a remarkable fall of snow to Jerusalem, in England March was remarkably snowy. The years 1851 and 1854 followed a wet winter at Jerusalem and 1853 and 1856 a dry one. On the 24 of March of the latter year, when Horatius Bonar came to the ancient River Kishon, it had not water enough to force a passage to the sea and seemed absorbed in the sands of a long bank which ran

between it and the shore. It was otherwise when the Kings of Canaan fought in Taanach and the stars in their courses fought against Sisera, for then the river Kishon swept them away; and it was otherwise when previous to my visit two Presbyterian ministers arrived at the lodging house and stated that they had one or both fallen into the Kishon and got drenched. In the summer of 1857 a star of almost supernatural brilliancy hung over Olivet, and Jew and Gentile were seized with a presentiment; but after all it was only a planet in its circuit reflecting back the rays of the setting sun: on the sixth of September an immense cloud of locust flew over Odessa. The year 1860 cold and wet in Europe, was a year of most sunspots.

The Philistines on their seaboard of blown sand made five golden images of the short-tailed mice which in years when the frost was absent marred their fields, and in 1863 Van Lennep encountered an army of rats in Asia Minor that marched over the ground like young locusts. On the 20 of January 1864 the temperature at Jerusalem was remarkably low and in 1865 there were clouds of the *Acridium peregrinum* along the sandy coast at Beyroot, Saida and Jaffa, where they may be seen wandering about like a pale grey shade; the inhabitants of Nazareth had to give up their dwellings to the locusts, Canon Tristram met with them on the banks of the Jordan and the Reverend F. W. Holland saw a flock pass overhead when encamped at the foot of the Jebel Musa. In 1866 Mr. Mounsey encountered a many coloured flock in May at Persepolis; on the hills of Judea droves of orthoptera start up before the footsteps, but having no powers of flight they do not arrive in bands to destroy; their underwingstinged with coral reds and yellow are very beautiful. Lady Hester Stanhop, Queen of Palmyra, who kept a saddle-backed grey mare in her pleasure grounds at Dahr June, near Sidon, served with sherbet and delicacies, for a promised Messiah to ride on, wrote to her physician half a century before hand: „All those who come“, presumably to Syria, „may go back in the Turkish year 1245“. Doctor Cumming, hearing of this, added that number to the date of the Hegira A. D. 622 and the result was 1867, the year brought troubles to Turkey that concerned Mr. Gladstone and according to Wolf it was a year of fewest sunspots.

Agabus a prophet came from Jerusalem to Antioch and predicted a famine while the apostles Paul and Barnabas were there. This says one authority, came when Claudius was consul the fourth time and it must not be confounded with the famine that happened when he was consul the second time; it raged during his fifth, sixth and seventh year: Queen Helena sent to Alexandria for corn and to Cyprus for figs. Thomson, commenting on the famine in Israel in the days of King Ahab, remarks, that all the crops fail there when there is a drought of only a few months in spring; and the prophet Amos says of the same portion of northern Syria: „I have withholden the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; and I caused it to rain upon one city and not upon another; one piece was rained upon and piece whereupon it rained not withered“. When 1870 came the Philistine sea coast was depopulated as the inhabitants had gone into Egypt to find food. The year of most sunspots followed in 1871, the year of fewest came in 1878; the winter of 1879 left behind it seventeen inches of snow at Jerusalem that lay unmelted on the hillsides and hollows for two or three weeks, the summer that followed in Europe old people found as miserably wet as 1816 had been.

The writer of the Wisdom of Soloman desired to know. „The operation of the elements, the beginning,

ending, and midst of the times; the alteration of the turning and the change of the seasons, the circuits of the years and the positions of the stars.“ A swarm of the little yellow grasshopper, *Stauronotus maroccanus* in the Island of Cyprus had increased to an alarming extent in 1882, when Mr. S. Brown destroyed a thousand tons of their eggs and Miss Gordon Cumming wrote an account of it in the Nineteenth Century. The year of most sunspots came in 1883 which was again wet in Europe: The sirocco wind has blown as I never knew it blow before, Mr. Gibb wrote to me from Algeria in 1888, the following year of fewest sunspots, and the second week in July the town of Constantine was full of locusts. Flocks of locusts were heard of in Egypt and Algiers in 1891, and of field mice at Athens in 1892; in 1893, the year of the cholera and most sunspots, Dr. Festa found the *Stauronotus Maroccanus* swarming in March in the wingless state at Jericho and east of the Sea of Galilee, and at the close of the summer flocks appeared at Haifa and Jerusalem, as also in Marocco. After my return to Southampton Miss Fitzjohn wrote to me on the 14 of June, 1898: „Last Saturday a large flock of small yellow locusts came over to Jerusalem from Es-Salt and the upland plain of Gilead on the other side of the Valley of the Jordan; my girls were out in the garden putting them into bottles of spirits and the birds went darting here, there and everywhere. They passed onwards to Colonna on the road to Jaffa, where some stones of a Roman station remain.“ The specimens sent me proved to be the common plague of the coast of the Mediterranean, *Stauronotus Maroccanus*. In 1899 Miss Fitzjohn sent me word of the arrival of a smaller flock of larger, grey, *Schistocerca peregrinum* at Jerusalem, enclosing specimens.

„And the fifth angel sounded“, we read, and I saw a star from heaven fallen unto the earth: and there was given to him the key of the pit of the abyss: and he opened the pit and there went up the smoke of a great furnace, and out of it came forth locusts.“ Where the sun shines bright on the sea walls of Rhodes and its sparkling water murmurs stories of the Trojan war, we learn from the Grecian Anthologia the inhabitants kept grasshoppers and crickets, in the atrium, or garden plot in the centre of their house, for the solacé of their trill; and here Aristodicus lamented in verse one that had flown away to revel on the meadows of Clymene among the golden flowers of Proserpina, or in other words was dead. The leafcricket, *Decticus albifrons*, answers to the description of these acrides that emerged from the bottomless pit, and hence it is called by the inhabitants of Cyprus *Sacro Acrida* and *Lauro aurida*. An entomologist accustomed to diagnosis could scarcely fail to read: „And the shapes of the acrides were like unto horses prepared unto battle, and on their heads were, as it were, crowns like unto gold and their faces were as the faces of men, and they had thread-like antennae as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions, and they had breastplates as it were breastplates of iron, and when their males rubbed their front wings together, a minute comb under the left caused a glassy patch on the right to tinkle as it were a jangle of bells and the sound of chariots of many horses rushing to war. Their females have tails, or ovipositors, like unto scorpions.“ You may see and hear these orthoptera in the marshlands that border the Mediterranean, and many similar leaf-crickets populate the reeds that fringe the river banks; the Greek writer Lucian, a native of Samosata on the Euphrates, called them, „flying scorpions that have the wings of bats“. In many Biblical dictionaries and pictorial Bibles they are introduced as the locust.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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