

Note on Mr. Kirby's recent paper on the Hemiptera of Ceylon.

By Dr. E. Bergroth.

Mr. Kirby has had the kindness to send me a copy of his work on the Heteroptera and Homoptera of Ceylon (Journ. Linn. Soc. XXIV, pag. 72—176, with 3 plates). The author says in the introduction, that he has thought his paper „would be rendering a real service to science”. I think no serious hemipterist will be of the same opinion. As the author is assistant in the British Museum, one should expect to find informations on the real systematic position of the many dubious Hemiptera described from Ceylon by Walker, and it is therefore with great regret we find Mr. Kirby's work to be entirely in Walker's style and almost without any scientific value. Mr. Kirby further says, that he will not create many new genera, „until those already proposed have undergone a thorough and much-needed revision, which at present I have no time to attempt”. It is to be hoped, that Mr. Kirby never will find time to a such revision, as it seems to be unknown to him, that the genera of Hemiptera have already undergone a thorough and most excellent revision by Stål. The author seems to have almost no knowledge of Stål's works. Or how is it to be explained, that a work on Hemiptera, in which Walker's system is accepted instead of that of Stål, is published *anno mundi* 1891?

As a very great number of the species enumerated by Mr. Kirby is placed in wrong (sometimes exclusively american) genera, it would take too great room here to give a detailed critic. It may only be said, that the mistakes in Mr. Kirby's last paper are still more numerous than those in his works on Odonata, elucidated by Dr. Karsch, and that his new species will ever remain enigmas, until they have been examined by a Hemipterist. I will here only speak of the two new genera of Heteroptera created by Mr. Kirby. *Dicephalus* Kirby nov. gen. is the old well known genus *Henicocephalus* Westw., which forms a distinct family, *Henicocephalidae*. Mr. Kirby places the genus among the *Reduviidae* between *Tiarodes* and *Petalochirus* (!). The genus described under the name *Formicoris* (an orthographical monstrosity) is identical with *Dulichius* Stål.

The insect belongs to the family *Coreidae*, although Mr. Kirby says, that „it is undoubtedly one of the *Reduviidae*” and places it near *Myocoris* (!!). It is no exaggeration to say, that the affinity of this insect to a Reduviid is not greater than that of a *Buprestis* to a *Carabus*. There are instances of such grave mistakes in the works of the Linnean period, but (apart from Walker) scarcely in those of this century. Papers such as those published in the last years by Kirby, Meunier and G. Fallou are a great obstacle to future writers and it is surprising, to find such a scribble in a journal of high scientific reputation.

I have here spoken only on the Heteroptera, as I have not studied the Homoptera, but Mr. Kirby's mistakes in that suborder are certainly not less numerous. Some of them have already been corrected by Mr. Distant, the able Homopterist, who has shown, that the four „new” Cicadae, described by Mr. Kirby are all synonymous with known species.

Studien über die Cleriden-Gattung *Trichodes* Hbst.

Von K. Escherich, Regensburg.

1. *Trichodes suspectus* n. sp.

Obscure viridi-cyaneus, nitidus, subtus griseo, supra obscure villosus. Capite thoraceque dense rugoso-punctatus, thorace oblongo, basi parum coarctato. Elytris rubris, basi, callo humerali, sutura, fasciis transversis duabus maculaque apicali obscure viridi-cyaneis; profunde regulariter punctatis. Pedibus antennisque obscuris. — Long. 9—11 mm. Patria: Syria (Dr. Staudinger), Taurus (Korb).

Form, Zeichnung, überhaupt der ganze Habitus erinnert lebhaft an *favarius* Ill., besonders an die Exemplare, bei denen die Binden sehr stark verbreitert sind. Denn bei *suspectus* ist die rothe Grundfarbe bis auf eine kleine Makel innerhalb der Basis, eine mit dieser durch einen feinen Randsaum verbundenen abgekürzten Querbinde in der Mitte, und einer schmalen Querbinde vor der Spitze, verdrängt. Das charakteristische Merkmal, das den *suspectus* von seinen Verwandten trennt, ist die dunkle Binde, welche die ganze Basis der Flügeldecken einfasst, und die einen länglichen, parallel dem Rande verlaufenden Fortsatz auf den Schulterhöcker aussendet, ähnlich wie bei *ammios*. Ausser-

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