specimen of *Cicindela* which only differs from *Circumcincta* by its fine light green colour; I suppose it to be a local variety.

I will conclude with the following remark. The *Tetracha Australasiæ* of Hope is perhaps the same as the *Crucigera* of McLeay, junr., but it is certainly different from the insect figured under the name of *Australasiæ* by White, in the expedition of the *Beagle* (pl. 1, fig. 1). The latter belongs, I think, without doubt to the *Humeralis* of McLeay.

With the addition of the sort lately described by Mr. McLeay in the fifth number of the "Transactions of the Entomological Society of New South Wales," the number of Australian *Tetracha* is actually eight, and will be certainly soon very much increased.

ART. VI.—*Characteristic of an undescribed Senecio, from South Africa.* By FERD. MUELLER, M.D., F.R.S.

In a communication very recently received from Peter MacOwan, Esq., principal of Shaw College, of Grahamstown, the writer of this note has been desired to give an opinion on the specific validity of a new species of *Senecio*, discovered not long ago by that learned and ardent investigator of South African plants, in the vicinity of Algoa Bay. I entered on the examination with all the more pleasure, not only because the material for comparison of plants from extratropical Africa is extremely rich in the Phytologic Museum of Melbourne, but because I was also anxious to promote in any way within my power the researches of a gentleman who exercises already important bearings on the elucidation of the plants of the Capeland, and who, moreover, has commenced to add largely to the South African collections already in possesion of my institution, from the german naturalist and travellers, Ecklon, Zeyher, Drege, Pappe, and Gueinzius.

The genus *Senecio* is not merely more widely distributed over the globe than any other existing, from the polar to the equinoctinal regions of both hemispheres (though almost absent in North Australia), but it embraces also more species than any other, nearly a thousand being on record, some however but ill defined. The genus almost as rich in species, and almost as extensively diffused is *Solanum*, and then seemingly follow *Panicum*, *Carex*, and *Euphorbia*

though in Australia *Acacia* surpasses all others largely in the number of specific forms. The species of *Senecio*, as representatives from almost every part of the globe, become thus of the greatest possible interest, and are certain to be always among the first which come under the notice of any phytographical observer. The groundsels, I may remark, though generally of the more humble forms of vegetation, present, in a recently discovered species from the Chatham Islands (*Senecio Huntii:* "Vegetation of the Chatham Islands," sketched by F. M., p. 23, plate 3); and in the Victorian and Tasmanian *S. Bedfordii* (F. M., report, 1858, 26) fair-sized trees, perhaps the only truly arborescent species of the globe.

In transmitting the botanical object, to which more specially this brief memoir has reference, the discoverer justly observes, "its nearest affinity to be with *Senecio* "*Paucifolius*, from which however it abundantly differs in "its peltate leaves. The leaf is very like a frequent form "of *S. Oxyrifolius*, but that plant has discoid capitula and "a corymbose-paniculate inflorescence." In these lucid remarks I cannot but fully concur, and it will be therefore with these two congeners that Mr. MacOwan's *Senecio* will rank under the highly appropriate name chosen by that gentleman for this new species. It may however be that occasionally monocephalous varieties of *S. Paucifolius* and *S. Oxyrifolius* are formed; and again, forms of *S. Tropæolifolius* with more than one capitulum, and thus the affinity between these evidently closely allied plants would become still nearer. The diagnosis would approach to the following:—

Senecio Tropæolifolius (MacOwan):—Herbaceous, glabrous; *leaves small, peltate, cordate-orbicular*, or verging into a rhomboid or renate form, repand, all *radical or crowded towards the base of the stem, on long petioles; stem simple, scapelike, monocephalous*, with very few distant minute scales; *involucre without calycular bracts*, unless one, as long as the discal flowers, consisting of about 13 scales; ray-flowers yellow, about twice as long as those of the disk; achens glabrous.

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The only specimen transmitted, is about a span long, and without root, which probably will prove tuberous. Petioles 1-2″ long, slender; leaves measuring about one inch, without distinct teeth; the point of insertion about one-third above

the base ; neither nerves nor veins prominent. Involucre 3-4‴ long. Ray-flowers about 7. Disk-flowers about 20, hardly above 2‴ long, a little exceeding the copious and very tender bristles of the white pappus. Ripe fruit not seen on this occasion.

S. Paucifolius, to which Mr. MacOwan justly compares his plant, though somewhat resembling it in habit, assumes by its sessile leaves of mostly ovate shape a very different appearance ; the nerves, moreover, are not radiate. The flowerheads of both bear a great resemblance, as a comparison of *S. Paucifolius* in the Melbourne Phytological Museum at once rendered manifest. The affinity of *S. Tropœolifolius* is indeed nearer to *S. Oxyrifolius ;* the differences of the latter consist in a pleiocephalous inflorescence, in a lesser number of scales constituting the involucre, in the abscence of ligular flowers and in hispidulous achens. On this, as an apt occasion, the writer would still remark, that in the extensive series of South African species of *Senecio*, diagnostically defined by Professor Harvey, one does occur among those formerly undescribed, as *S. Leucoglossus*, so named by Dr. Sonder. The specific name is, however, preoccupied by a West Australian plant, described in the second Vol. of the "Fragm. Phytogr. Austr.," p. 15. The name of the homonymous South African plant might thus be altered into *S. Actinoleucus*.

The writer connot conclude this brief notice of a South African plant without a tribute of homage to the two illustrious phytographers, Drs. Harvey and Sonder (of whose lengthened friendship he may well be proud), who, in constructing their noble work on the vegetation of extratropical Africa, have so far and so rapidly advanced to bring together their discoveries and those of their predecessors in a form clear erudite and accessible ; though alas ! the hand of death has withdrawn one of these discoverers of the Cape flora from amidst his glorious exertions, from exertions with dignity sustained to diffuse combined knowledge and delight, and certain to stamp his name on that part of the globe for all time. But it will not be there alone where the children of Flora will speak with every returning spring of both Harvey and Sonder. It is also on the oceanic shores of the Australian continent, where we ever will be reminded of the genius of these great men, when we contemplate the wonderfully rich, varied, and beautiful marine vegetation of our own extensive coasts.