

recognized in Ceylon. A long series of this species was taken in the moth traps.

In the last number of the Journal of the Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. (vol. XVI., No. 4, p. 747) is a note by Capt. Nangle, describing an attack by flies upon flying Termites in India. A similar occurrence was noticed one night at Telulla, when a flight of winged Termites invaded the tent of my moth trap. Immediately following the "White Ants" came a number of Muscid flies which proceeded to pounce upon them. They did not attempt to carry away their prey, but commenced to feed upon them there and then, piercing their helpless victims between the segments of the abdomen. Specimens of this fly have been sent to Europe for determination.

Beating for moths, in the daytime, was made difficult by the presence of enormous numbers of the common Noctuid *Amyna selenampha*, which rose in clouds whenever the undergrowth was disturbed. We saw several trees stripped of their leaves by the larvæ of this moth. Fortunately this species did not fly at night or—at any rate—respected our moth traps.

Our traps were pitched, one night, on the bund of the Telulla tank. Behind us was an abandoned paddy field. As soon as the lamps were lighted myriads of frogs joined in a deafening chorus which soon became so intolerable that we had to stop our ears with cotton wool.

Reptiles were not much in evidence. But we surprised a large specimen of *Dendrophis pictus* swallowing a full-grown lizard (*Calotes versicolor*). Younger examples of this snake are said to feed upon grasshoppers. A fine example of the large rough tailed snake—*Uropeltis grandis*—was picked up on the cart road where it was engaged in extracting grubs from a pat of cow dung.

E. ERNEST GREEN.

6. *On the Species of Leaf Insects (Phylliinae) occurring in Ceylon.*—Mr. W. F. Kirby, in his recently issued "Synonymic Catalogue of Orthoptera," credits Ceylon with three distinct species of this subfamily of Phasmidæ. These are,—*Pulchriphyllium agathysus*, Gray; *Pulchriphyllium crurifolium*, Serv., and *Phyllium athanyus*, Westw.

I have recently submitted specimens of our commoner species to Mr. Kirby, for an authentic determination. There has hitherto been considerable confusion in the nomenclature; the commonest Ceylon species having been variously referred to under the names

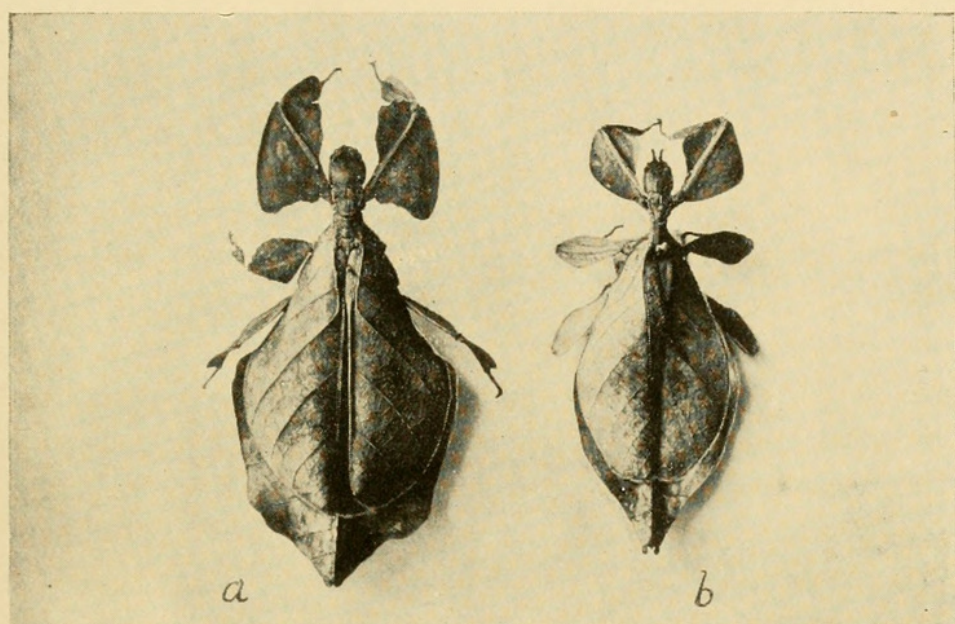


FIG. 1.—*a* PULCHRIPHYLLIUM CRURIFOLIUM.

b PHYLLIUM ATHANYUS.

$\times \frac{1}{2}$

of *siccifolium*, *scythe*, *pulchrifolium*, and *bioculatum*. In reply, Mr. Kirby tells me that this species is apparently *crurifolium*, which Gray confused with his previously described *bioculatum*. "It has nothing to do with *Phyllium siccifolium*, which does not occur in Ceylon." He also states that *P. athanysus* can be recognized at once by the hinder edge of the front femora being entire, and that *P. agathyrsus* "seems to differ from *P. crurifolium* in having the hinder edge of the front femora more deeply and irregularly excavated."

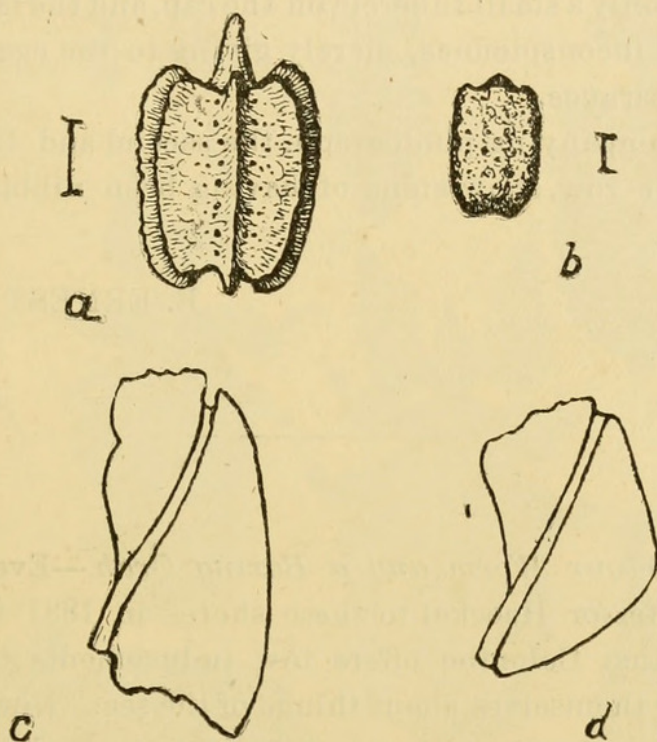


Fig 2. (a) Egg of *Pulchriphyllium crurifolium* } $\times 4$
 (b) Do. *Phyllium athanysus*

Fig 3. (c) Femur of front right limb of *P. crurifolium* } $\times 1\frac{2}{3}$
 (d) Do. do. *Phyllium athanysus*

Of these three species, *crurifolium* is comparatively abundant. Native boys collect them in considerable numbers, in the neighbourhood of Kandy. They find them by waiting under the trees that they are known to affect and watching for falling pieces of green leaves dropped by the feeding insects. This species is very easily raised from eggs laid by captive females.

I have met with very few examples of *athanysus*.

Agathyrsus is quite unknown to me, though it is recorded only from Ceylon. If the "more deeply and irregularly excavated hinder edge of the front femora" is the only distinction between this species and *crurifolium*, then a great number of bred examples of the latter might be classed as *agathyrsus*, for very few

individuals reach maturity without having this part of the limb more or less extensively nibbled away by their comrades in captivity. Can this accidental erosion have led to the supposed distinction of the species? The slender individuals in the lower right hand corner of the figure (4) are the males, which have functional wings and very small wing-covers, the reverse being the case with the female insects.

There is a well marked difference in the eggs of *crurifolium* and *athanysus*. That of the former has five winged lateral ridges and a prominent spiked cap. The egg of *athanysus* is very much smaller, has only a small tubercle on the cap, and the lateral ridges are low and inconspicuous, merely giving to the eggs a slightly angular appearance.

In the accompanying photograph, the second and third insects in the middle row, show signs of having been nibbled by their companions.

E. ERNEST GREEN.

7. *A Harbour Worm and a Boxing Crab*.—Ever since the visit of Professor Haeckel to these shores in 1881 it has been recognized that Colombo offers few inducements to biologists who cumber themselves about things of the sea. Nevertheless, if time and opportunity allowed, a great deal might be gleaned from the outer reaches of the Colombo Harbour; and the Northern Arm of the Breakwater is already attracting a host of creatures from the surrounding depths. Amongst these there comes occasionally a remarkably fine Annelid worm belonging to the family Amphinomidæ. Its name is *Chloëia flava* (Pallas); it is particularly characteristic of the Indian Ocean and has been known to naturalists for nearly a century and a half. It attains a length of nearly five inches or more when fully extended and an inclusive breadth of about one inch. The number of segments is limited, not exceeding forty, and this number is only reached in the fully mature condition. Smaller and therefore younger individuals have fewer segments, the number of the latter being roughly correlated with the size; thus examples about half to three-quarters of an inch in length will have 24–26 segments. The head region is characterized by the presence of a peculiar organ called the caruncle, which stretches back over several of the anterior segments. Behind this region, each segment

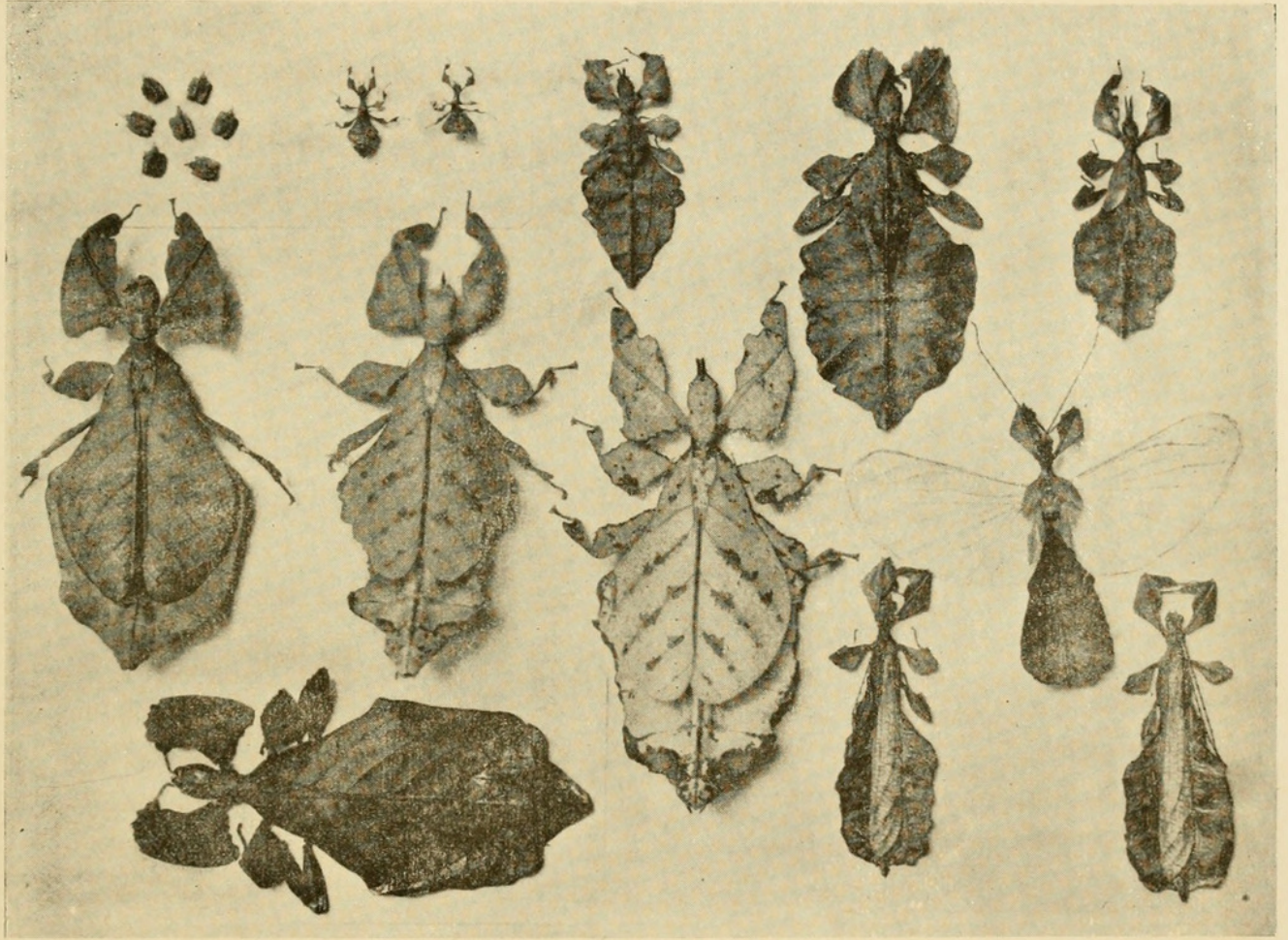


FIG. 4 —EGGS, LARVÆ, NYMPH, AND ADULT (♂ AND ♀) OF "FULCHRIPHYLLIUM CRURIFOLIUM."

[To face p 222.]



Green, Edward Ernest. 1906. "On the Species of Leaf Insects (Phyllinae) occurring in Ceylon." *Spolia zeylanica* 3, 220–222.

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