

In examining critically the genera of *Neottideæ*, I have been surprised to find that this *Decaisnia* is identical with *Prescottia*; a circumstance easily overlooked, since the species is somewhat different in habit from any of the *Prescottias* hitherto published, and is moreover so represented in the figure that accompanies M. Brongniart's memoirs as not to call to mind the peculiar cucullate fleshy lip and revolute floral envelopes of *Prescottia*. I find, however, that both these characters really exist in *Decaisnia*.

M. Brongniart relies upon the adhesion of the lateral sepals and labellum into a pouch, two pollen masses, and a pair of auricles to the anther-bed, as characteristic features of *Decaisnia*; but the first is equally the attribute of all *Prescottias*, and the others are of little moment. I am not able to ascertain whether the granular pollen masses are simple or two-lobed, although I possess an excellent specimen of *D. densiflora*, through the liberality of M. Ad. Brongniart, so very difficult is the examination of the minute fructification of these plants: but even if the pollen be as is represented in the figure in Duperrey's Voyage, it would not constitute, *per se*, a generic difference from *Prescottia*; and with regard to the auricles of the anther-bed, they occur in *P. plantaginea* itself, and in *P. stachyodes* form a still more striking feature in that part.

Although the name *Decaisnia* must therefore be abolished, I do not think it desirable to restore it to those Indian *Neottideæ*, originally so called by me, and afterwards, at the request of M. Brongniart, altered to *Cnemidia*, for this would be to increase the confusion of names. It will, I think, be better that some new genus should be taken to commemorate the distinguished merits of M. Decaisne.

VIII.—On a new British Species of Colymbetes. By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, Esq., M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c.

THE water Coleoptera of South Britain have now been so carefully studied, that it is far from probable that any new species should yet remain to be discovered amongst the larger forms; it is therefore with the greater satisfaction that I now introduce to the entomological readers of the Annals of Natural History a new species of *Colymbetes*, discovered by the Rev. J. L. Brown in Horning marshes, Norfolk, in the month of March, 1839, and again found in the same place in March 1840. This insect appears referable to the section *Agabus* of Erichson, in which the labial palpi have the third joint a very little shorter than the second, the claws being equal and



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