

PLATE XVII.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF TWO ROSTRATED LOCUSTIDÆ.

THE insects represented in the opposite plate exhibit a singular departure from the ordinary form of the Locusts, in the front of the head being produced into a long rostrum somewhat like that of the typical Fulgoræ. Amongst the grasshoppers with long antennæ there is a genus, Copiophora, in which the head is elevated into an erect and pointed horn, and in Mesops and Proscopia, two genera of Locusts, we find an approximation to these two insects.

Notwithstanding the great elongation of the head in front of the eyes, I refer the unique insect represented in the upper figure to the genus Opsomala of Serville rather than to his genus Mesops, because the antennæ are inserted near the eyes, whereas in the latter genus (which has much more the habit of Truxalis) the eyes are "placés assez loin des antennes," and because the same organs are not ensiform, thus assigning the insect to Serville's second division of Opsomala with the "antennes composées d'articles peu aplatis et point élargis."

OPSOMALA GLADIATOR, *Westw.* (Pl. 17, fig. 1).

Luteo-fusca, virescente parum tincta, capite antice in rostrum (prothorace duplo longius) producto, antennis rostro brevioribus gracilibus, alis hyalinis vix incoloratis, abdomine longissimo, pedibus 4 anticis brevissimis.

Long. corp. (rostrum incl.) unc. $3\frac{1}{2}$; long. capitis unc. 1, ante oculos unc. $\frac{3}{4}$. Expans. tegm. unc. $3\frac{3}{4}$.

Habitat Sierram Leonam. In Mus. D. Hope.

This is a giant in the genus Opsomala, being nearly twice as long as the largest described species. It is entirely of a luteous brown colour, slightly varied with darker brown, with a paler oblong patch on each side of the upper surface of the prothorax. The head is produced into a rostrum nearly three-fourths of an inch long, its upper surface being nearly continuous with the disk of the head, and gradually narrowed from the eyes to the tip; the upper surface flat along the middle, but with the sides towards the eyes deflexed; the under surface of the rostrum forms a very sharp edge, and is slightly curved, the tip being obliquely truncate. The eyes are oval and slightly elevated; the antennæ are placed at the base of the lateral channel which extends from the base to the apex at the sides of the rostrum; they are slender, filiform, and not so long as the rostrum. The prothorax is slightly rugose, with the dorsal carina scarcely elevated, and with three transverse very slight impressed lines across the middle of the back. The tegmina are narrow, not so long as the abdomen, with the apex almost rounded; they are of a pale luteous-brown colour, with the veins varied with darker brown; the wings are almost colourless; the middle of many of the cells is, however, rather clouded with a tinge of pale brown. The abdomen is very compressed and shining, with the anal appendages whitish. The four fore legs are very short, and the hind pair are scarcely longer than the abdomen; the femora terminating on the outside in an elongated spine. The prosternum is armed with a short spine, and the meso- and metasternums are broad.

The insect represented in the lower figure constitutes a new genus, which, notwithstanding the great size of the frontal prominence, I arrange in Serville's section *Conophori*, and to which may be applied the generic name of

BACTROPHORA, W.

Corpus elongatum subcylindricum; caput magnum, oculis magnis prominentibus, fronte in baculum (capite fere duplo longiorem) cylindricum, infra carinatum productum. Antennæ prothoracis longitudine, 24-articulatæ, parum compressæ, articulis 3tio et proximis brevissimis et tenuioribus; inter et prope oculos ad basin rostri insertæ. Facies infra valde tumida; labrum maximum bilobum. Prothorax tuberculatus, absque carina dorsali, canalibus duobus transversis impressus. Pedes 4 antici breves. Prosternum dente brevi obtuso armatum.

BACTROPHORA DOMINANS, W. (Pl. 17, fig. 2.)

Tota luteo-fulva, antennis (articulis 2us basalibus exceptis) nigris, tegminibus fusco-nebulosis alis apice fuscis.

Long. corp. rostro incluso unc. 3½. Long. rostri ante oculos $\frac{6}{10}$ unc. Expans. tegm. unc. 4.

Habitat—? In Mus. Soc. Zool. Lond.

The produced front, of the head forms a snout somewhat like that of some species of *Fulgora*, ascending a little from the impressed arched channel between the eyes; the under side is rather rugose, and along the centre runs a carina which terminates in the acute arched, rather dilated apex: this carina at its base is furcate, each branch extending to the base of one of the antennæ; the pronotum is covered with small tubercles, which even extend along the anterior margin, two being of larger size in the middle. The tegmina are opaque and very closely reticulated; they are of the same colour as the rest of the body, but are clouded with many small patches of brown; the wings are pale fulvous at the base, with the apex dark brown.

I regret that the locality of this extraordinary and unique insect is unknown.

The plant figured is part of a twig of *Combretum comosum*, a splendid species found at Sierra Leone.



Westwood, J. O. 1842. "Plate XVII. Illustrations of two rostrated Locustidae." *Arcana entomologica, or, Illustrations of new, rare, and interesting insects* 1, 64–66.

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