SCARABÆUS MACROPUS.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Antennæ clavatæ capitulo fissili.

Tibiæ anticæ sæpius dentatæ.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 541.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SCARABÆUS scutellatus viridis nitens, subtus cupreo-auratus, pectore porrecto, femoribus posticis crassissimis.

Francill. descr. scarab. rar.

In formandis scarabæis variam et quasi ludibundam esse naturam dudum observavimus; in scarabæis præcipue majoribus, qui, ut plurimum, nigri aut fusci, privantur splendidis coloribus, quibus superbiunt multa ex insectis coleopteris minoribus. A congeneribus tamen insigniter differt species de qua jam loquimur; cum formæ inconcinnae, quæque carere videtur apto partium consensu, adjecti sunt colores vividi et pulcherrimi. Totus scarabæus superior splendide gramineo-viret quasi vernice oblitus; inferior nitet more cupri politissimi; crura postica præcipue, adeo enormiter magna, si cum corpore comparantur, ut primo visu impedimento ei et incommodo esse videantur. Dictus inde est

scarabæus

scarabæus macropus. Ad saltum tamen, si forte falliendo graditur, apta omnino et accommodata est hæc insolita crurum longitudo.

Mirum hoc insectum a Potosi delatum in pinacotheca exstat Domini Francillon, qui iconem ad hoc opus ornandum humanissime nobiscum communicavit, eodem corporis situ insectum monstrantem quo illa quæ ab ipso Domino Francillon non ita pridem publicata est.

THE KANGUROO BEETLE.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Antennæ divided at the tip or head into several lamellæ.

Tibiæ or second joints of the fore-legs generally toothed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Scutellated bright-green BEETLE, gold-coppery beneath; with projecting breast; the thighs of the hind-legs very thick.

Francill. descr. of a rare Scarabæus.

It has been already observed in the present work that in the genus *Scarabæus* Nature seems to have exerted an almost capricious diversity of form; the most extravagant shapes that can easily be conceived presenting themselves to our view amongst the larger animals of this tribe. It is also to be observed that, in general, the color of the larger beetles is either black or brown, and seldom exhibits that rich assortment of brilliant hues so conspicuous in many of the smaller coleopterous insects. A striking exception however to this rule occurs in the insect represented
in

in its natural size on the present plate, and which to a form the most seemingly disproportioned unites the most beautiful colors; the whole animal, on the upper surface, being of the richest varnishy grass-green, while the under surface is ornamented by a metallic lustre resembling that of burnished copper: this is particularly conspicuous on the hind legs, which are of so enormous a size in proportion to the rest of the animal as to appear, at first view, rather an inconvenience to it. The animal may however be formed for leaping; for which purpose this extravagant size of leg may be well calculated. It is from this circumstance that it has received the title of the Kangaroo Beetle.

This singular Beetle was received from Potosi, and is preserved in the elegant collection of Mr. Francillon, who politely permitted a figure to be engraved for the present publication, and which shews the insect in the same posture with the beautiful representation some time ago published by that gentleman.

Shaw, George. 1799. "The Kangaroo Beetle, *Scarabæus macropus* [Pl. 384]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 10(CXVII), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304566>.

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