Miscellaneous.

On a new Genus and Species of the Family Trochilidae.
By JOHN GOLDF, F.R.S. &c.

I must confess that, after the many years I have been studying this family of birds, I was not prepared for the acquisition of the very remarkable species hereinafter described. It is most nearly allied to the members of the genus Thalurania, but is sufficiently distinct in its form to warrant its being constituted the type of a new genus, for which I propose the name of Hylonympha, with the following characters:

Bill stout, somewhat curved, a little longer than the head. Wings rather long and falciform. Feet and toes moderately strong; tarsi clothed. Tail ample, deeply forked, and larger in comparison with the size of the body than that of any other member of the family.

Were it not for its large, long, swinging tail, it would very much remind us of Thalurania glaucopis.

Hylonympha macrocerca.

Crown of the head glittering blue, with a reflection of green towards the edges; throat glittering green, passing into dull green on the flanks; abdomen black, glossed with green; feathers clothing the tarsi dark brown on the outer side and white on the inner; under tail-coverts black; all the ten feathers of the tail, the outer ones of which are very broad, a uniform steel-black.

Total length 8½ inches; bill 1, wing 2¾, tail 6, tarsi ¼.

Habitat uncertain. I obtained this bird from Mr. Whitely, who stated he received it in a collection of skins which had been formed in Brazil.

On the Zoological Position and Function of the Parasitic Acarina called Hypopus. By M. Méggin.

In a recent note I announced:—1, that under my eyes an octopod nymph of Tyroglyphus rostro-serratus had been transformed into a Hypopus easily recognizable as H. feroniarium, L. Dufour; and, 2, that I had seen the same Hypopus under different conditions resume the form of Tyroglyphus. From these facts I concluded that the Hypopodes, and their analogues the Homopodes and Trichodactyli, were merely transitory asexual states of the Tyroglyphi and perhaps of other Acarina. I have now to announce further observations, which fully confirm the previous ones.

In a large undescribed Tyroglyphus, which also lives upon fungi, but feeds chiefly on the stalk (whilst T. rostro-serratus particularly affects the hood and the lamellae), I have also seen the asexual nymph become transformed into a Hypopus. This Hypopus, which is much larger than the former one, appears to be the Acarus spinipèdii, Herm.; it is of the same size (0·33 by 0·12 millim.) and of the same orbicular oval form. Its legs are robust, furnished with claws without suckers, and provided with numerous rigid setæ, especially posteriorly; it is ensared like the other Hypopodes, is of a rose colour, with a pair of vesicles filled with a bright green liquid,

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