

This remarkable genus must be placed next to *Cuphea*, but from which, as well as from every other genus of the order, it is essentially distinguished by its pedicellate fruit, and by the placenta being attached along its whole length to the upper side of the ovarium. The stamina are also fewer in number, and the calyx is furnished with two bractæ. The plant is a native of Chile, where it was discovered by my late friend Mr James Macrae, and more recently by Mr H. Cuming, in whose extensive collection there are abundance of fine specimens of it.

LAPAGERIA ROSEA, No. 22. p. 279.

Add the following synonym.

Vochi, Liliaceo amplissimoque flore crameino. *Forstl. Peruv.* p. 69. t. 49.

The figure is an indifferent one, the leaves being erroneously represented as ternate, and the flower as tetraphyllous, but the description, as is usual with this accurate author, is excellent, except in regard to the leaves, which he states to be ternate.

Biography of the late DUGALD CARMICHAEL, Esq. Captain 72d Regiment, Fellow of Linnæan Society, &c. (Continued from preceding volume, page 103.)

THUS we see that neither the hurry of military movements, nor the proximity of the enemy, could hinder Capt. Carmichael from entering immediately upon his scientific researches, or availing himself of the hours which might justly be devoted to sleep or recreation, in order to become acquainted with the productions of the country. From his journal we transcribe the following notes on the animals of the Cape.

“ The *African Rhinoceros* (*Rhinoceros bicornis*) differs from that of Asia, in having two horns instead of one. Its hide is smooth, likewise, and free from wrinkles. Of the hide of the *Rhinoceros* and *Hippopotamus*, the boors manufacture a sort of horsewhip, known by the name of *Shambok*.” “The horns of the *Rhinoceros* are solid. When turned in the lathe, and fashioned

beve, according to the ancient creed, that if any noxious fluid were poured into a cup of this description, it would instantly *foam and boil over the brim.*

“ Of all the quadrupeds that prey upon birds, the *Ratel* (*Viverra zibethica*), a species of *Ursus*, according to Mr Burchell, is perhaps the most destructive. When I was at Algoa Bay, Capt. Lawrence and Dr Ingham, my next-door neighbours, amused themselves with breeding poultry. As their hen-roosts happened to stand contiguous, the fowls used to lay their eggs indiscriminately in that which was most convenient. This introduced frequent altercations between the owners, respecting the property of the eggs, each of them pretending to discover, by infallible marks, the produce of his own fowls. The scene of these disputes was usually at my door, which was regarded as a sort of neutral ground; and as their arguments were usually long and loud, my situation as a listener, and often a referee, was rather an unpleasant one. Hints or entreaties on my part could never prevail on them to move an inch from my threshold, and the subject was becoming every day more harassing, when my good genius, in the shape of a *Ratel*, came and took up its residence in our neighbourhood. In the course of one night, this destructive vermin put an end to all disputes, by cutting the throats of all the fowls, to the number of two dozen and a-half, most of which were found next morning weltering in their blood. It carried off two or three to its burrow, to which we traced it by means of their feathers, and after a great deal of labour, succeeded in destroying it.

“ The *Ratel* is also exceedingly fond of honey, and securely plunders the hive, whilst the bees exhaust their fury on its impenetrable hide. It is, of all animals, perhaps, the most tenacious of life; the skin being so thick and so loosely attached to the carcass, that it is proof against every species of violence.”

“ The Boors and Hottentots in the vicinity of Algoa Bay, collect vast quantities of wild honey, which they find in the hollow trunks of decayed trees, in the deserted nest of the *Termes* (or white ants), in the crevices of rocks, and in holes burrowed in the ground by the chacals and hyenas. The hive is usually

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