

Alopecurus fulvus.—A careful examination of this plant and *A. geniculatus*, has shown me the following distinctions between them:

A. fulvus.—Flowers one-third less than those of *A. geniculatus*; palea as long or longer than the glumes; awn inserted just below the middle of the palea, and slightly longer than it; anther short and broad. Sheaths of the leaves white between the ribs, with very minute hoary granules. Panicle very long.

A. geniculatus.—Palea shorter than the glume; awn inserted near to the base of the palea, and twice its length; anther linear. Sheaths of the leaves without hoary granules. Panicle shorter.

Festuca duriuscula, γ . *hirsuta*. *F. hirsuta*, Host. ?—Root black, fibrous. Radical leaves setaceous, glaucous, half as high as the stem; stem leaves involute; sheaths three or four times as long as the leaves. Stem obsoletely quadrangular, covered with very minute down. Spikelets four or five-flowered. Glumes hairy; external palea very densely pubescent, internal glabrous, with its margin ciliated; anthers two or three times as long as their filaments.

I have drawn up the above description of this plant on account of its not having been noticed in any work on the plants of this country. Gathered on the summit of Pen y Gader, the highest summit of Cader Idris, Wales, July 1832.

Polypodium calcareum—may always be distinguished from *P. dryopteris* by being minutely mealy in all its parts. Each particle of this mealiness, under a high magnifying power, appears to be a minute stalked gland. I have not been able to find any trace of this on *P. dryopteris*.

IV.—*The Characters of two new Genera of South African Reptiles, with descriptions of species belonging to each.* By ANDREW SMITH, M. D., M. W. S., &c.

IN the year 1825, I first obtained the Cape species of the genus *Chrysopclea*, and on examining it, I observed some peculiarities of formation which were not exhibited by any of the genera of serpents with which I was acquainted. From that circumstance, I was immediately led to set it apart as a type for an additional division, and, from the singular manner in which the abdominal plates were formed or apparently divided, I constructed the term *Aspedotrisedis* to designate the new genus.

Soon after that I had a visit from my late friend, the lamented M. Boie, on his way to Java, when I substituted the name *Chry-*

sopelea, in consequence of having learnt from him that he had, previous to his departure from Europe, observed like appearances in the *Coluber ornatus*, and had on that account separated it from the other then constituted genera, under the title of *Chrysopelea ornata*. Though the term employed by me was originally framed as the designation of a genus for the Cape species, without any knowledge of what had been accomplished in Holland, yet that of M. Boie had priority as its patron, and to whatever enjoys that, an immediate and unqualified preference ought invariably to be given. Whoever had the pleasure of witnessing the noble candour and liberality of that celebrated and highly talented naturalist while he was alive, could scarcely feel disposed to act otherwise towards his memory, and it must always be a source of regret with the lovers of natural history, that an individual so eminently calculated to advance their favourite science should have almost immediately fallen a victim to the deleterious effects of the climate of the country he was appointed by his government to explore.

The three species of the other form, for which I have established the genus *Pleurotuchus*, present certain of the characters of the *Scinci*, but at the same time have several others peculiar to themselves, amongst which one of the most particular is an elevated longitudinal fold of skin, which extends from the angle of the mouth to the base of each hinder extremity, the one edge of which is loose and directed upwards, so as to conceal when undisturbed a narrow stripe of minute granular or warty-looking bodies, which, instead of scales, cover the skin immediately above its base or fixed edge.

CLASS REPTILIA. ORDO SAURI. FAMILIA SCINCIDÆ. GENUS PLEUROTUCHUS.

CH. GEN.—*Caput* quadrangulare, supra scutatatum.

Dentes in maxillis et palato, priorum æquales, fixi approximati, sublongi, cylindrici, acuminati et confertum applicati ad superficiem internam ramorum, ultimi breves acuminati cylindrici et in seriebus duabus profunde in ore siti.

Lingua crassa depressa et apice incisa.

Oculi palpebris duabus, pupillis circularibus.

Corpus subquadrangulare, dorso lateribusque squamis quadrangularibus carinatis tectis; abdomine scutis quadratis in fasciis transversis, gutture hexagonis. *Plica* longitudinalis cutis prominens inter angulum oris et extremitates posteriores.

Cauda subcylindrica, verticillata, et squamæ, exceptione illarum prope anum, valde carinatæ.

Pedes quatuor, *dactyli* quinque; *digiti palmarum* breves, 2dus et 3ius fere æquales, posteriorum longi, 2dus longissimus.

Pori femorales.

1. *Pleurotuchus typicus*.—*Supra brunneus, dorso duobus lineis longitudinalibus albis et duobus nigro variegatis; lateribus maculis subflavis notatis; subtus flavo-albus.*

Back and sides brownish, the former with two longitudinal lines on each side, the outermost white and narrow, the innermost black and rather broader. Both commence at the outer corners of the eyes, run in contact with each other, and the white one terminates near the commencement of the tail, while the other extends nearly half way to its point, and there, after uniting with its fellow of the opposite side, gradually disappears. Sides variegated by small, somewhat square, spots of a yellowish cast, and the ground colour is clouded and mottled with darker tints, which in some places approach to black. Belly yellowish white; tail tinted with brownish, brownish-red, and yellowish-white, but disposed in no regular order. Legs and toes the same colour as the body, without variegations. Femoral pores sixteen in number; ten longitudinal rows of plates on belly. Length from nose to anus four inches, from anus to tip of tail seven inches and a-half. This lizard inhabits the dry sandy flats of Little Namaqualand, and is rather abundant towards the mouth of the Orange river, where it is called by the native Hottentots *Ouru-kaima-aap*. Its motions are very quick, and when discovered upon open ground runs towards the roots of the first bush it can find, and from thence if pursued into any hole it can perceive, but if one cannot be discovered, it even attempts, and frequently succeeds, in forcing itself under loose sand, so as to escape detection.

2. *Pleurotuchus Desjardini*.—*Supra sub-brunneus, dorso fasciis duobus longitudinalibus, exteriore albo, interiore nigro, maculis nigris maculatis; lateribus lineis verticalibus nigris et albis notatis; subtus flavo-albus.*

Colour of back and sides brownish, with two longitudinal lines or stripes on each side of the former, the outermost white, and the innermost black; those of each side in direct contact, commence behind the eye and terminate on the root of the tail; along the centre of the back an irregular row of black spots, each marked with one or more dots of white. Sides variegated by narrow vertical stripes alternately black and white, below yellowish white; legs greenish brown, variegated with a few white spots; femoral pores about twelve in number; eight longitudinal rows of plates on belly. Length from nose to anus three inches and a-half, from anus to tip

of tail five and a quarter. Inhabits the country amongst the south-east coast, and is usually found in damp retired situations, either in wooded spots or in their neighbourhood. Named in honour of M. Desjardins, Secretary of the Natural History Society of the Isle of France.

3. *Pleurotuchus chrysobronchus*.—*Supra brunneus, dorso duabus lineis flavis et duabus nigris notatis; lateribus brunneis, griseo umbratis; guttere flavo; abdomine livido-albo.*

Colour above brown, with four longitudinal stripes on the back, the two outermost yellow, the two innermost black; upper part of sides brown; lower brown, shaded with gray; anterior part of throat a fine bright light yellow; belly bluish white; legs and toes brown; length of body four inches; length of tail six and a-half. Inhabits damp woody situations towards the sources of the Cowie river, about Graham's Town and Blue Kranz.

ORDO OPHIDIUM. FAMILIA COLUBRIDÆ. GENUS CHRYSOPELEA. *Boie.*

CHAR. Dentes per series 6 dispositi; *maxillares* mediocres, fere æquales; cylindrici, acuti et angulo obtuso recurvi; *palatinorum* parvi, breves, numerosi, approximati; *mandibularum* mediocres, anteriores remoti, longiores, posteriores approximati, omnes leviter recurvi.

Caput distinctum, depressum ovato-triangulare, apice rotundato rictu oris amplo; nares mediocres subverticales; oculi magni verticales, pupilla rotunda.

Truncus longus subcylindricus.

Cauda tenuis longa et triangularis.

Scuta abdominis versus extremitatem carina transversa obtusa.

Squamæ caudæ transversè carinatae.

1. *Chrysopelea Boieii*. Ch. *Supra virido-brunneus, anteriore parte dorsi linea flava longitudinale variata; labio superiore, margine externa superciliarumque flavis; linea nigra longitudinale inter oculum et occiput; infra virido-flavus.*

Abdominal plates 165. Subcaudal scales 119 pairs.

Colour above greenish brown, variegated by a partial yellow line, which commences at the hind head, and extends along the centre of the back for six or eight inches. Outer edges of eyebrows clouded with yellow; upper lip pure yellow; the lowermost row of scales on each side buff yellow, and from each eye to the hind head a narrow black stripe; belly greenish yellow. The scales are disposed nearly in transverse rows, those of the dorsal row large and somewhat six-sided, those of the others oblong, linear, and one edge behind slightly elongated and pointed. Length of body two feet seven inches,

of tail fourteen inches and a-half. Inhabits the Island of Ceylon, and does not appear to have been yet described.

It is named in honour of the individual who formed the genus, and though the form and mode of arrangement of the scales are different to those of *Chrysopelea ornata*, yet it is clearly a species of the same genus. As far as regards the character of the scales and their mode of distribution it is nearly allied to the genus *Bucephalus*, as described by me in one of the numbers of the *Zoological Journal*.

2. *Chrysopelea Capensis*—*Ch. supra viridi-cærulea, infra antice viridis, viridi-flavo umbrata, postice viridi-cærulea.*

Abdominal plates 216. Subcaudal scales 109.

Above greenish blue, verging towards a light slate hue; head tinted with purple; anterior part of belly light green, mottled with greenish yellow, posterior part the same colour as back; scales large, subovate, and disposed in oblique rows, as in the *Chrysopelea ornata*, all of them, as well as the abdominal plates and subcaudal scales, with a shining metallic lustre; eyes brown. Length from nose to anus two feet eight inches, from anus to tip of tail eleven inches. The three species probably all belong to that class of snakes which generally resort to trees to obtain their food,—at least the last described was killed when turned round the branch of a high shrub, near to the mouth of the Orange river.

As has already been remarked, the scales of the present species are arranged as in the one which Mr Boie selected for the type of the genus. Their forms also approximate to those observed in it, and thus differ in both respects from the *Chrysopelea Boieii*, found in Ceylon.

V.—*Characters and Descriptions of the Dipterous Insects indigenous to Britain.* By JAMES DUNCAN, M. W. S., &c. &c.

(IN the following series of papers it is proposed to give a list of the Dipterous insects indigenous to Britain, with the Generic characters, Specific descriptions, and Localities, with as much accuracy as it is possible from the materials in the possession of the author. This singular and interesting tribe of insects has been hitherto comparatively neglected by British entomologists, but several valuable continental publications have been devoted to them, and in drawing up the characters and descriptions, Mr Duncan has chiefly made use of *Meigen's Europaischen Zweiflugeligen Insecten*, and *Macquart's Insectes Diptères du nord de la France*, works of great precision and minute accuracy.—We have already to offer our acknowledgments to several gentlemen, for communications relative to the