

ART. III. *Zur Naturgeschichte, &c. On the Natural History of the Genus Calandra, with the Description of a new Species, Calandra Sommeri.* By Dr. Hermann Burmeister. 4to, 24 pages, with one coloured plate. Berlin, 1837.

THE writings of Dr. Burmeister, as a first-rate entomologist, are already so well known in this country from his *Handbuch der Entomologie*, translated by Mr. Shuckard, and by his admirable memoir upon the anatomy of the larva of *Calosoma sycophanta*, published in the *Transactions of the Entomological Society*, that a new work from his pen and pencil will be welcomed by entomologists. The genus *Calandra* is the subject of this new memoir; and, when it is remembered that those destructive insects the corn weevil (*Cal. palmærum*), the rice weevil (*Cal. oryzae*), the palm weevil (*Cal. palmærum*), and the tamarind weevil (*Cal. Tamarandi Christy* in *Trans. Ent. Soc.*), are all referable to this genus, it may be well presumed that the subject will lose none of its interest in the hands of Dr. Burmeister, who has entered very fully into the natural history and other peculiarities of the genus, accompanied by several interesting tables, exhibiting the geographical range of the different species, on a plan which, if applied to other large groups, would furnish some admirable results in this too much neglected part of the science.

The new species of *Calandra* described by Dr. Burmeister resides in the trunks of *Encephalárctus Altensteíni*, at the Cape of Good Hope, and is thus characterised:—*Calandra Sommeri*: nigra, pronotovittato; elytris punctato-striatis; stria secunda et tertia puncto post medium luteo-fusco. Long. lin. 10.

This insect, brought from the Cape by M. Thorey (who has large collections of insects for sale at Hamburg), is described by Dr. Burmeister in all its states. The larva is remarkable for having the extremity of the body terminated by a furcate appendage. The internal anatomy of the larva is figured with great care; highly magnified representations of the nervous system, and of the digestive organs, being given in the plate.

## SHORT MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

ZOOLOGY of Central Africa. — Our readers will be gratified to hear that the splendid collection of objects, illustrative of the zoology of Central Africa, formed during the progress of the late exploring expedition, has just arrived in this country,



under the charge of Dr. Andrew Smith, and will shortly be open to the inspection of the public. In our notice of Dr. Smith's report (Vol. I. p. 98. n. s.), we stated that this expedition was sent out by a Society formed at Cape Town, in 1833, for the purpose of adding to the scanty information extant upon the geography, natural history, and interior resources of Southern Africa; and the present collection, thus obtained, has been sent to this country, in the hope of raising a fund, by its public exhibition in London, that will enable the Society to carry its object still further into effect, by fitting out another expedition. The fact of there being three species of rhinoceros would alone render the exhibition very attractive to all who are interested in natural history; but, considering the circumstances under which the collection was obtained, and the sole purpose for which it is now exhibited, we are sure that every one having the advancement of science at heart must feel an interest in visiting it, and in that way contributing to the promotion of those objects contemplated by the Society to which it belongs.\*

*Zoological Society of London.* — The Council of the Zoological Society of London, in the course of last year, determined upon offering annual medals, or an equivalent sum in money, as premiums for the introduction into this country of scarce animals, and for other subjects connected with zoology. It was resolved that, in 1837, the premiums should be given to the importer of a pair of musk oxen; or a specimen of the hippopotamus, male or female; or a pair of the *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*. To the breeder of the greatest number of curassows in the year 1837. To the importer of a male and female Indian pheasant, of a species not already alive in this country. To the breeder of the best specimens of Indian fowls in the year 1837. To the breeder of the most rare or most interesting foreign quadruped in the year 1837. To the writer of the best essay on the care and treatment of the species of the genus *Felis* in confinement.

The first week in July is fixed for the distribution of this year's premiums; and the regulations under which candidates will be entitled to claim them may be had on application at the Society's office in Leicester Square. — *Ed.*

*Editorial Note relative to Papilio Podalirius.* — In the last volume of the *Magazine of Natural History*, p. 599., there is a communication from Mr. Dale, respecting the occurrence of *Papilio Podalirius* in Britain. He remarks, "at p. 333. Vol. III., I gave the different authorities for considering P.

\* It is intended to exhibit the collection at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.