

OBSERVATIONS on the INSECTS collected in KERGUELEN ISLAND.—By the
Rev. A. E. Eaton, M.A.

There are doubtless some other species of insects indigenous to Kerguelen Island besides those which are enumerated in the following papers. For although the climate is bleak and the vegetation poor, the amount of ground suitable for the habitation of terrestrial articulata is rather extensive, and in point of humidity and altitude presents much diversity of character. On the shores of the intricate inlets of the sea and of the islets adjacent to them, ample space is available for the maintenance of littoral species. The low flat ground at the eastern base of the Mt. Crozier range, many square miles in extent, though saturated with the drainage from the neighbouring mountains, might be expected to yield good entomological results, if it should ever be visited by a collector. The slopes about Thumb Peak, unusually sunny for Kerguelen Island, could hardly fail to be productive of at least *Coleoptera*. It is true that none were captured there, but that was because they were not sought for, the eggs of a new species of bird having to be collected during the short stay that was made in that neighbourhood. But probably the most favourable situations of all would be the valleys and low hills intervening between Mt. Ross, the inland snowfields and glaciers, Vulcan Cove, and Royal Sound.

Along the shore amongst the tide-pools, undisturbed by waves from the open sea, *Halyritus* of the *Chironomidae* may be readily observed, while *Hyalomma* lurks in the crevices. More numerous are the denizens of tide-refuse on the upper part of the beach. There the hairy little *Apetenus* can be seen creeping leisurely over the boulders, and *Amalopteryx*, curiously winged, which also abounds among the nests of the Cormorants and Rock-hoppers. Beneath the stones, too, *Anatalanta* is plentiful, though it is not restricted to this zone like the *Phytosus*, but is distributed over the neighbouring slopes and valleys. Beyond the limits of the shore the forms of life become more varied. The sluggish *Calycopteryx* awaits inspection on the *Pringlea* leaves, ready to drop into their axils so soon as it shall be approached too nearly. There roam the spiders *Myro* over stones and *Azorella*; the moth *Embryonopsis*, clambering the tufts of withered grass, leaps lightly off like a splinter chipped away by the boot, and feigns to be dead; while, if the day be calm and fine, the minute *Limnophyes* may be seen upon the wing. *Ectemnorhinidae* are often to be met with under stones, especially upon the hill tops and on banks and ridges. Several species of *Acaridea* resort to similar shelter on the slopes and low ground; some are gregarious on open surfaces of rock, while others

live among the herbage. They are often associated with *Collembola*, which also frequent wet moss in the marshes.

It will be seen from the descriptions and figures that many of the insects are remarkable for peculiarities of structure. The predominance among them of forms incapable of flying constitutes one of the most salient features of this portion of the fauna. A few of the *Diptera* are in addition noticeable on account of the exceptional poverty of their hair.

Where species have been alluded to without description, in literature relating to the island, the references to such allusions are given in a distinct paragraph supplementary to the citations of earlier descriptions.
