

*patanus*, Smith, in a very striking manner, especially when its wings are spread out. It also resembles the boring bee *Xylocopa fenestrata* Fabr., not in form and size but in colour. Mr. Gahan records it from North India, Burma, Java. The specimen in the Indian Museum Collection was obtained in Calcutta in 1905.

C. A. PAIVA.

NOTES ON SOME INDIAN HEMIPTERA.—Dr. N. Annandale, during a recent visit to Simla, obtained one specimen of *Bagrada picta*, Fabr., at Theog, 8,000 feet, Simla hills, on the 2nd May 1907. He states that it is rather scarce in the Simla district. A few specimens were found by the collector who accompanied him, at Dharampur (5,000 feet) in the same district and month. Mr. Hodgart obtained one specimen at Nagla in the Naini Tal district in March 1907. It appears to be found all over India.

On April 28th a specimen of *Palomena reuteri*, Dist., was found by Dr. N. Annandale feeding on a Poplar tree at Matiana, 8,000 feet, Simla hills.

The only specimen now in the Indian Museum Collection of *Lelia octopunctata*, Dall., was obtained by Dr. N. Annandale at Matiana, 8,000 feet, Simla hills, on the 30th April 1907. It has been hitherto recorded from Bhutan (*British Museum*) and the Khasi Hills (*Chennell*).

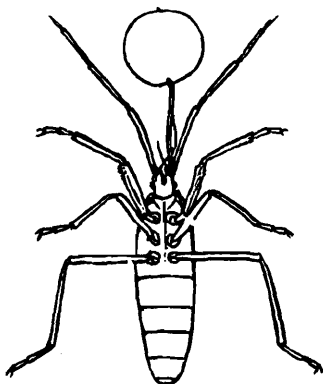
One specimen of *Mictis macra*, Stål., which has hitherto been represented in the Indian Museum Collection by five specimens from Mergui, was obtained by Mr. R. Hodgart at Phularia, Nepal Terai, in May 1907. Mr. Distant, in his volume on the Rhynchota in the *Fauna of British India*, records it from Sylhet (*Stockholm Museum*) and mentions that it is also found in the Malay Peninsula. It appears to be rather rare in India.

In March 1907 quite a number of specimens of *Clavigralla gibbosa*, Spin., were brought to the Museum by the Museum Collector. This species seems to abound on a plant which Mr. I. H. Burkill has identified as the composite herb *Blumea wightiana*, DC. *Clavigralla gibbosa* is recorded by Mr. Distant from Bombay (*Distant Collection*); Bangalore (*Cameron*); Tenasserim, Myitta (*Doherty*). Mr. R. Hodgart collected a specimen at Bijaura, Nepal Terai, in May 1907. It is apparently widely distributed.

Several specimens of *Lygæus equestris*, Linn., from Murree, Punjab, are in the Museum Collection. Dr. N. Annandale found it very common on bare and grassy hillsides in the Simla district, above 7,000 feet. It is very active on the wing. The specimens obtained by Dr. Annandale are from Theog, 8,000 feet (27th April 1907), and Matiana, 8,000 feet (28th April 1907).

*Macropes dilutus*, Dist., was hitherto unrepresented in the Indian Museum Collection, but in January 1907 Mr. R. Hodgart obtained three specimens at Bijnor, United Provinces. This appears to be the only definite locality in India proper from which the species has yet been recorded. Mr. Distant records it from "North India" (*Distant Collection*); Burma: Bhamo (*Fea*).

In February 1907 the Museum Collector obtained a young specimen of the Giant Cotton Bug, *Lohita grandis*, Gray, with a seed-like object, about the size of an ordinary pea, attached to its rostrum; and although the insect received a good deal of handling, the object remained suspended to the rostrum. Mr. I. H. Burkill,



Young *Lohita grandis* sucking seed of *Ipomœa*.

of the Industrial Section of the Indian Museum, identified the seed as that of a species of *Ipomœa*. Its shell is very hard; no impression can be made on it with an ordinary knife, and it appears wonderful how such a small insect could have thrust its proboscis into the seed. On careful examination of several seeds of the same kind, I found, on one side of the seed, a very small raised spot, with a slight depression in the centre. This is the only penetrable part in the seed and is doubtless the part the bug chooses for the insertion of its proboscis.

A few specimens of *Dermatinus lugubris*, Dist., were collected by Mr. R. Hodgart at Bareilly, United Provinces, and at Songara, Gonda district; in March 1907. Hitherto there was only one specimen of this species in the Museum Collection, from Chatrapur, Ganjam district. Madras and Pondicherry are the only localities recorded by Mr. Distant.

One specimen of *Gerbilius ornatus*, Dist., was obtained by Mr. R. Hodgart at Nagla, Naini Tal district, in March 1907. This is the only specimen now in the Museum Collection. Mr. Distant records it from Bor Ghat (*Dixon*) and Ceylon (*Green*).

*Vesbius purpureus*, Thunb., is recorded by Mr. Distant from Assam, Khasi Hills (*Distant Collection*); Ceylon (*Green*); Burma: Bhamo (*Fea*); Java; Philippines. On the 3rd March 1907 the Museum Collector obtained one specimen in Calcutta. There are two others in the Museum Collection, one from Calcutta and the other from Margherita, Upper Assam.

Specimens of *Salda dixonii*, Dist., were found to be very common at Theog, 8,000 feet, Simla hills, at the beginning of May 1907, by Dr. N. Annandale, who states that they are abundant there at the edge of a pond, and are very active, jumping about and taking to the wing readily, but never flying far. They are able to run and leap on the surface of the water. Mr. Distant considered this species rare, as he says in his volume on the Rhynchota in

the *Fauna of British India*, that he had seen but two specimens, one sent him by Mr. R. M. Dixon from Bor Ghat, Bombay, and another collected by Signor Fea at Rangoon.

C. A. PAIVA.

#### CRUSTACEA.

A PREOCCUPIED SPECIFIC NAME IN *Macrothrix*.—In reference to a species described in his recent paper (*Rec. Ind. Mus.*, I, p. 25, June, 1907) on Indian Freshwater Entomostraca, Mr. R. Gurney writes under date June 7th, 1907, as follows: "I find that I have used in my last paper a name already used, viz. *Macrothrix tenuicornis*. Kurz used it many years ago for *M. rosea*. If possible, will you change the name of my species to *Macrothrix odiosa*." Unfortunately the letter arrived after the paper had been issued, but *Macrothrix odiosa* should stand as a correction.

#### MOLLUSCA.

AN ENEMY OF CERTAIN PEARL OYSTERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF.—A number of specimens of Pearl Oysters from the Persian Gulf have recently been sent to the Indian Museum for identification; they belong to the three species mentioned by Evans in the *Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edinburgh* for 1892, namely, *Avicula macroptera* (local name *zanni*), *Meleagrina vulgaris* (local name *muhar*), and *M. margaritifera* (local name *sadifi*), the last representing Jamieson's var. *persica*. Nearly all the shells of *A. macroptera* and a few of those of *M. margaritifera* had been injured by the burrows of a mussel, which Mr. H. B. Preston has identified as *Lithodomus malaccanus*, Reeve. The burrows in the shells were not vertical, but nearly horizontal; they were cylindrical, rounded at the end and not much longer than the mussel. Their diameter was, however, sufficiently great to have injured the inner layers of the pearl shell in many instances and to have caused the deposit of irregular masses of dark nacre on the internal surface. The outer layer was generally more or less broken above the burrows and in such places had almost invariably been attacked by the boring sponge *Clione*. The mussel itself had in some cases been attacked by another borer, which had made comparatively large circular holes in one of its valves. *Lithodomus malaccanus* is not mentioned by Herdman among the enemies of the Ceylon Pearl Oyster, although it is known to occur in the Gulf of Manaar; it is recorded doubtfully by Melvill in his list of the shells of the Persian Gulf.

N. ANNANDALE.

THE DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA OF THE AFRICAN SNAIL *Achatina fulica*, FÉR.—It is well known that this gigantic snail, introduced from Mauritius, is common in the gardens of Calcutta and the neighbourhood. As it is said to be spreading to other parts of India, I should be very glad of specimens from any part of the country not in the immediate neighbourhood of Calcutta. The species is easily