

MISCELLANEA

GENERAL.

MIMICRY OF A MUTILLID BY A SPIDER.—On a railway embankment about two miles south of Cuttack I recently collected a curious spider which I mistook at first sight for a female Mutillid. It was running about on bare soil in a manner peculiarly like that of a Mutillid; the “cephalothorax” was reddish and the “abdomen” black with white spots. The white spots have unfortunately disappeared entirely in spirit, leaving the “abdomen” uniformly black, but even now the rough red “cephalothorax” blackened over an area in front corresponding to the head of a Mutillid, the apparently velvety (in reality somewhat polished and finely punctured) black “abdomen,” and the general shape of the specimen give it a very *Mutilla*-like appearance. A few minutes before finding this specimen I had obtained a specimen of *Mutilla pondicherensis*, which it resembles closely in form and general colour, differing however in the markings on the abdomen, those of the spider consisting in life, to the best of my recollection, entirely of white spots without any bands. There were, I believe, three (or two?) transverse rows of these round spots, each row consisting of one median and two lateral spots, those of the anterior row being much larger and more widely separated from each other than the rest. The spider and the *Mutilla pondicherensis* found near it are preserved together in spirit, in the Indian Museum collection, and as it is impossible for us at present to get the spider identified I publish this note as a record of its appearance in life for the benefit of whoever may ultimately work out the collection. Mr. E. E. Green informs me that he has observed a similar phenomenon in Ceylon; he has already published a note on it in *Spolia Zeylanica* (vol. iv, 1907, pp. 181-2), and a further note is in preparation which will be accompanied by a coloured figure. My specimens have been submitted to him for examination and he tells me that he believes the spider to be the same as his, in which case its name is *Coenoptichus pulchellus*, Simon (= *Myctocryptus mutillarius* of a later paper by Karsch).

F. H. GRAVELY.

XIPHOSURA.

CAPTURE OF *Limulus* ON THE SURFACE.—From time to time, as more and more observations on the planktonic fauna of the ocean are carried out, the occurrence of unusual constituents are reported and it seems worthy of being placed on record that on the night of the 19th of December, 1911, an adult specimen of *Limulus muluccanus*, Latreille (= *Tachypleus gigas* (Müller)¹),

¹ Vide Pocock, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (vii), vol. ix, 1902, p. 262.