

tioned, that it follows in tropical and warm regions the cultivation of the sugar-cane closely. The cattle eat it only when young. General Hardwicke, as mentioned by Lindley in his 'Vegetable Kingdom,' reports that the tubers of this sedge are administered successfully in cases of cholera by Hindoo practitioners, who call the plant Mootha. It is a very pretty sedge, and would form a nice appearance on lawns did it not spread so rapidly and prove so injurious to the soil, which it exhausts in a very short time.

Hypoporum nutans, β . *hirsutum*, N. ab E. in Mart. et Endl. Fl. Bras. Fasc. iv. v. p. 170.

The roots of nearly all the sedges possess more or less tonic and aromatic principles, but none more than the above species, in which that property is not alone restricted to the roots, but is likewise possessed by the stems and leaves. The Macusi Indians call it Cumi or Wanarappa, and it is used in child-bed, likewise for pains in the stomach, in fevers, and in aromatic baths by the Indians. I have collected it on the savannahs near the Tapocoma lake in the regions of the sea-coast, and observed it abundantly on the great savannahs of the rivers Rupununi and Branco.

XLII.—*Note on Petasida ehippiger*a, a Grasshopper found in the interior of the Northern part of Australia by Mr. Dring and Dr. Leichhardt. By ADAM WHITE, F.L.S., Assist. Zool. Dep. British Museum.

THE amount of nondescript subjects in the animal kingdom, noted in recently published books of travel and voyage in this country, is very considerable; and if we include the animals figured and described in the zoological works, the result of the voyages of H.M.S.S. Beagle, Sulphur, the Erebus and Terror, and Samarang, the number would be very great. A systematic list of these accessions, carefully drawn up and digested, would form a most important addition to zoological bibliography, and would be hailed by naturalists abroad and at home as a most timely and useful assistant. Were foreign naturalists to do the same with the voyages and travels which appear in their respective countries great service would be rendered; for notwithstanding the able reviews of Müller, Erichson, Lovèn, Schaum, and M. Guerin-Ménéville, such lists systematically arranged would prove singularly useful, and would often prevent collision and a worse than useless synonymia, many of these books not being obtained by these reviewers. Out of five books on Australia published by Mr. Boone, and one on New Zealand by Mr. Murray, the descriptions of new species and genera are numerous, and *must be* referred to by the zoologist; besides, in many cases there are very

Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. Vol. xx. 29

accurate figures. In the lately published Narrative of Dr. Leichhardt's Journey,—so interesting in a geographical point of view, as to have earned for its enterprising author the medals of the Geographical Societies of London and Paris,—there are various curious natural-history notices; amongst these we may mention the occurrence of “a Grasshopper” found by Dr. Leichhardt and his party on the 17th November near the South Alligator: he says, “Whilst on this expedition we observed a great number of grasshoppers, of a bright brick colour dotted with blue: the posterior part of the corselet and the wings were blue; it was two inches long, and its antennæ three-quarters of an inch.” (P. 481 of a Journal of an Overland Expedition from Moreton Bay to Port Essington, a distance of upwards of 3000 miles: 1844–45: by Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt.)

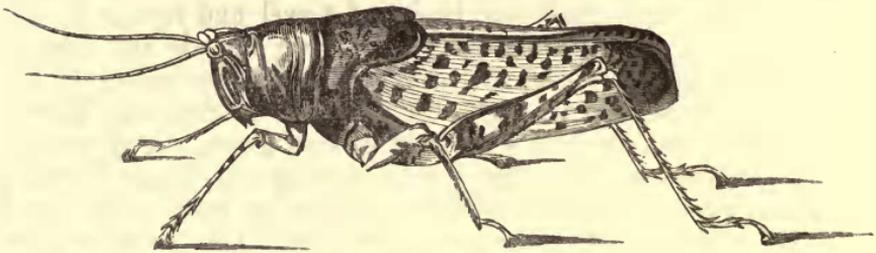
By the great kindness of Mr. Boone of Bond Street, I am enabled to add a wood engraving of this interesting grasshopper, that gentleman having given me the loan of the wood block which accompanies Dr. Leichhardt's notice.

The grasshopper was described in 1845 in Eyre's ‘Journals of Expeditions of Discovery into Central Australia,’ and a very excellent lithographic figure by Mr. William Wing accompanied it. I subjoin the description:—

PETASIDA, White, *l. c.* i. 432.

Petasida ephippigera, White, *l. c.* t. 4. f. 1.

“Grasshopper,” Leichhardt's Narrative, p. 481: with woodcut.



Petasida ephippigera.

Thorax much dilated behind, depressed and rounded at the end; the side deeply sinuated behind; head pointed; antennæ long, of a yellowish orange colour with a few greenish rings; cheek below the eye with a greenish line; head above with a longitudinal greenish line. Thorax with a slight keel down the middle, wrinkled behind, of a dusky bluish green, a large patch of an orange colour on each side in front, and a small spot of the same colour on each edge of the produced part at the base. Elytra orange with numerous black spots, and black at the tip; lower

wings pale orange at the base, clouded with black at the tip; abdomen orange, slightly ringed with green; legs orange, with three greenish spots on the outside of the femora of the hind legs. Length 1 inch 9 lines.

A specimen found by Dr. Leichhardt was presented to the British Museum by Sir Charles Lemon, Bart.; the other was found on the expedition of the *Beagle*, and is also in the British Museum.

XLIII.—*On the Indian Archipelago.**

THE first and most general consideration, in a physical review of the Archipelago, is its relation to the continent of Asia. In the platform, on which the largest and most important lands are distributed, we see a great root which the stupendous mass of Asia has sent forth from its south-eastern side, and which, spreading far to the south beneath the waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and there expanding and shooting up by its plutonic and volcanic energy, has covered them, and marked its tract with innumerable islands. That there is a real and not merely a fanciful connexion between the Archipelago and Asia is demonstrable, although, when we endeavour to trace its history, we are soon lost in the region of speculation. So obvious is this connexion that it has been a constant source of excitement to the imagination, which, in the traditions of the natives and in the hypotheses of Europeans, has sought its origin in an earlier geographical unity. Certainly, if, in the progress of the elevatory and depressing movements which the region is probably undergoing even now, the land were raised but a little, we should see shallow seas dried up, the mountain ranges of Sumatra, Borneo, and Java become continental like those of the Peninsula, and great rivers flowing not only in the Straits of Malacca, whose current early navigators mistook for that of an inland stream, but through the wide valley of the China Sea, and by the deep and narrow Strait of Sunda into the Indian Ocean. Thus the unity would become geographical, which is now only geological. That the great platform from which only mountains and hills rose above the sea level, till the materials drawn from them by the rains were rolled out into the present alluvial plains, is really an extension of the Asiatic mass, appears evident from the facts, amongst many others which require a separate geological paper for their discussion, and would be less readily appreciated by the general reader,—that its direction, as a whole, is that which a continuation of south-eastern Asia, under the same plutonic action which produced it, would possess;—the mountain ranges which form the latter sink into it irregularly in the lines of their longitudinal axes;—in one zone, that of the Peninsula, the connexion is an actual geographical one;—the Peninsula is obviously continued in the dense clusters of islands and rocks, stretching on the

* From the *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia*, for July 1847.