

one, two are usually larger than the rest. On the lower series the tubercles are usually more numerous than on the upper.

Under surface.—The triangular spaces between the avenues are granulated; among the granulations numerous large stomata, in form linear and compressed, each placed in a smooth space surrounded by a close border of flattened mammiform tubercles, those forming the lateral borders largest. The avenues are linear, contracting towards the arms. Suckers biserial. Border of avenues formed by transverse plates, each bearing four or five elongated tubercles, two of which face the avenue. These plates are each bordered by a series of granules.

Eye-cover formed of one large transversely-ovate tubercle terminating the ray, and three or four smaller ones on each side, with a circle of minute granules immediately surrounding the (red) eye.

Dimensions.—Breadth across the disc $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; length of arm $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; breadth of arm at base $\frac{9}{10}$ inch.

Colour.—When fresh Mr. Maclaurin states it was of an orange-yellow, which with crimson-red, are the usual hues of the Cushion-stars. Dried, it is of a pale yellow.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE VII.

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| <i>Fig. 1.</i> The starfish, seen from above. | <i>Fig. 4.</i> Marginal plates. |
| <i>Fig. 2.</i> Portion of upper surface. | <i>Fig. 5.</i> Border of avenue. |
| <i>Fig. 3.</i> Ditto of under surface. | <i>Fig. 6.</i> Eye-cover. |

XLIII.—*Description of a new genus of Carabideous Insects brought from the Falkland Islands by Charles Darwin, Esq. By G. R. WATERHOUSE, Esq., Assistant Secretary and Curator to the Zoological Society, &c.*

Section GEODEPHAGA.

Fam. FERONIIDÆ.

Lissopterus*, nov. gen.

Corpus depressum, elongatum; lateribus elytrorum subparalleliis.

Labrum transversum, antice emarginatum.

Labium profunde emarginatum, dente in medio paulo producto, ad apicem truncato.

Palpi filiformes, articulo ultimo ad apicem truncato.

Mandibula mediocres, edentulae, acutae.

Antennae mediocres, articulis subaequalibus.

Pedes mediocres; *tibiae* anteriores in maribus incrassatae, et tarsi articulis quatuor dilatati.

This genus is founded upon an insect discovered by Mr. Dar-

* *Λισσοτέρως* smooth, and *πτερόν*, in allusion to the almost total absence of sculpturing on the elytra.

win in the Falkland Islands. Some of the specimens were found in the month of March under a dead bird on the sea-coast in E. Falkland Island. Both by myself and Mr. Darwin this insect was upon a cursory inspection supposed to be a species of *Sphodrus*, but upon examination it was found to exhibit characters which separate it from that and other published genera. The more conspicuous are, the swollen anterior tibiæ of the male; the femora are also stouter in this sex, and the four basal joints of the anterior tarsi are dilated, and (with the exception of the basal joint, which is triangular,) they are broader than long. The antennæ do not exhibit the short second and long third joint as in *Sphodrus*, but have the joints all nearly equal in length, the second joint being scarcely shorter than the third, which is not longer than the following joints. In size the present insect is about equal to the *Oma-seus melanurus*, and an idea of its proportions may perhaps be best conveyed by comparing the two: the body is more depressed than in *O. melanurus*, the head is a trifle broader, and the antennæ are more slender; the thorax presents nearly the same outline, but the sides are not rounded quite to the base as in that insect. The elytra also present nearly the same outline, but besides being less convex, they have the reflected margin much broader and more distinct; the legs are nearly of the same proportions; the dilated tarsi of the male are broader, the tibiæ stouter, and the internal emargination much less distinct, and situated nearer to the apex of the tibiæ. The principal specific characters may be thus expressed:—

Lissopterus quadrinotatus. Liss. niger subnitidus; antennis pedibusque piceis, vel rufo-piceis; thorace supra paulo convexo, subquadrato postice angustiore, lateribus indistincte rotundatis, foveis duabus oblongis impresso, medio canaliculato; elytris elongato-ovatis, lateribus subparallelis postice rotundatis, supra subdepressis, lævibus, indistinctissime striatis, notis quatuor rufis ornatis.

Long. corp. $6\frac{3}{4}$ —8 lin.; lat. $2\frac{2}{3}$ —3 lin.

Var. β . Elytris immaculatis, pedibus nigris.

Colour black; head and thorax glossy, elytra dull; head rather broad and subdepressed, with a slight transverse groove in front marking the posterior boundary of the clypeus, which is transverse and slightly emarginated in front, where it is of a pitchy hue; two shallow foveæ situated partly on the clypeus and partly on the head; eyes rather small, rounded and convex; labrum and mandibles pitchy; antennæ and palpi pitchy-red. Thorax about one-fourth broader than long; in front but little narrower than the elytra, and behind about one-fifth narrower than in front; the sides slightly rounded, but becoming nearly straight and parallel towards the posterior

angles, which are nearly right angles; the upper surface is but little convex, the reflected lateral margins are rather broad, the dorsal channel moderately distinct, but obliterated near the anterior and posterior margins of the thorax; on each side, behind, are two oblique, long, smooth foveæ, between which is a transverse impression situated at about one-fourth of the distance from the base towards the apex of the thorax—this transverse impression is not strongly marked. Elytra elongate-ovate, above subdepressed, the lateral reflected margins broad and distinct, the surface nearly smooth but exhibiting indistinct striae, and these are most faintly punctured; two smallish red spots are observable on each elytron near the outer margin, one towards the base of the elytron, and the other on the apical fourth; the legs are pitchy or pitchy-red. Sometimes the red spots on the elytra are obliterated, the legs are nearly black, and the antennæ and palpi are pitchy.

Obs.—As regards one of the characters upon which I found the present genus, I allude to the male sex having *four* of the joints of the anterior tarsi distinctly dilated, I may call attention to the remark by Dejean in his observations on the *Feronia*, viz. that this group is distinguished from the *Harpali* by the structure of the intermediate tarsi (*i. e.* they are not dilated), and by the fourth joint of the anterior tarsus, which is *never dilated in the male sex*. The genus *Lissopterus* therefore affords a remarkable exception to a general rule.

XLIV.—*The Birds of Ireland* By WM. THOMPSON, Esq.,
Pres. Nat. Hist. Society, Belfast.

[Continued from vol. x. p. 179.]

THE RING-DOVE*—*Columba Palumbus*, Linn.—is common throughout the wooded districts of the island.

Mr. Waterton is rather disposed to believe that in his part of Yorkshire there is an annual increase by migration to the numbers of native birds. Mr. Selby states, in general terms, that there is not any such increase. The great numbers that congregate in autumn, and remain together during winter in Ireland, I have always considered as our indigenous birds only, collected together in their choicest haunts, however widely separated they may have been in the breeding-season.

Belvoir Park near Belfast, with its fine and extensive woods, is quite a preserve for these birds, and throughout the autumn and winter they may be daily seen there in the afternoon, in multitudi-

* Commonly called Wood Quest and Wood Pigeon in the north of Ireland.

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