

panded, nearly horizontal; the vertebral plates broader than long, the fourth the largest, with five even sides.

*Hab.* N. Australia; Upper Victoria, in Beagle's Valley. (Mr. Macgillivray.)

“Native name, ‘Billymurry.’ It was caught with grasshoppers, and the stomach contained *Pandanus*-seeds.”

The gular shield in both the specimens is narrow, elongate, extending down between the front edge of the second pair of sternal shields.

This species is at once known from the former by the form of the nodulose keel on the vertebral plates, and by the dentated hinder margin, as well as by the absence of the nuchal shield.

X.—Notice of a new Species of Pelomedusa from Natal.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

HITHERTO there have been only two species of *Pelomedusa* recorded—one from the Cape of Good Hope, which has been long known, and the other from Abyssinia, where it was discovered by Dr. Edward Rüppell; and they are so distinct from one another in the form of the ventral shield that each has been considered the type of a distinct subgenus, viz. *Pentonyx* and *Pelomedusa*. The British Museum received from Mr. Sargeant, the Commissioner for Natal in the International Exhibition, two specimens of the genus from Natal. They belong to the same subgenus, and are very like the species from the Cape; yet they seem to offer characters which mark them as distinct species, or at least very distinct local varieties.

In the Cape species, or *Pelomedusa subrufa*, the head is moderate (but they seem to vary in its size, perhaps in the two sexes), and there are only a few small scales between the hinder outer edge of the crown-shield and the upper edge of the temple-shield, and the front one of these scales is over the middle of the temple-shield.

In the Natal species, which may be called *Pelomedusa nigra*, the head is larger and more depressed, and there are several scales between the outer hinder edge of the crown-shield and the temple-shield; and the front scale of the series is narrow, and in the front part of the suture near the orbit which separates these two shields.

When I published the ‘Catalogue of the Shield Reptiles,’ (1855, p. 53), I separated a specimen which I had obtained from Mr. Warwick, as a variety of *P. subrufa*, thus: “Black, grey-spotted; shields all with close, rather granular, radiating ridges and concentric grooves; areola small.” I am now in-

formed that this specimen came from Natal; and in the above character it agrees with the two specimens received from Mr. Sargeant; while in all the specimens of *P. subrufa* which I have seen, the shell is more or less rufous brown, often very pale, and the shields are smooth, with only a few distant concentric narrow lines, or they are all over smooth, as if worn and polished.

The three Natal specimens agree also in the under side of the margin being black, with triangular white portions on the inner hinder edge of each shield, and the sternum is black or blackish brown. From this distribution of the colours, I believe that the "*Pentonyx du Cap*," figured by M. Auguste Duméril in the 'Archives du Muséum,' is this species.

I have no doubt of these being distinct species, not only on account of their colour, but also on account of the difference in the scales on the crown, which is very similar to the difference that separates the Natal from the Madagascar *Sternotherus*.

## XI.—Contributions to an Insect Fauna of the Amazon Valley.

COLEOPTERA: LONGICORNES. By H. W. BATES, Esq.

[Continued from vol. ix. p. 458.]

Subtribe ACANTHOCINITÆ.

Group *Lagocheirinæ*.

Genus LAGOCHÉIRUS (Dej. Cat.), Thomson.

Thomson, Classif. des Cérambyc. p. 9.

Body of large size, broad, oblong, slightly convex. Antennæ stout, half as long again as the body, and of nearly equal length in both sexes; the sixth joint in the males having a tubercle beneath its apex, surmounted by a pencil of stiff hairs; the basal joint is as long as the third, gradually thickened from the base, and in both sexes toothed beneath at the apex. Thorax obtusely tuberculated on its disk, and with large conical lateral tubercles. Elytra very broad at the shoulders, gradually and slightly tapering to the apex, which latter is briefly truncated. Thighs abruptly clavate; basal joint of the tarsi not much longer than the second.

The females have not elongated ovipositors and sheaths; the terminal abdominal segments, however, are much longer in the females than in the males. In one of the two species which I have examined (*L. araneiformis*) both the ventral and dorsal segments have their apical edges excised, whilst in the other (*L. fasciculatus*) they are entire. The males have their anterior tarsi ciliated.