

AUSTRALIAN CICADIDÆ.

THE MATING OF CYCLOCHILA AUSTRALASIÆ, Don.
AND THOPHA SACCATA, Amyot.

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(Plate xi.)

A short time ago, Mr. T. M. McGregor, of Rockdale, presented to the Trustees, a green male of *Cyclochila australasiæ*, Don. ("Green Monday"), and a female of the "Double-drummer," *Thopha saccata*, Amyot, which he had taken *in cop.* last summer, when collecting around Sydney. Numerous instances of insects of distinct species and genera taken in the act of coition, have, from time to time been recorded in the Old World, but this appears to be the first instance of the kind reported from Australia.

Mr. McGregor informs me that when his attention was attracted to these insects, he at first thought he had discovered an unusually large Cicada, and it was not until he had captured them, that he discovered he had secured two Cicadas of distinct genera in the act of coition. These when taken were placed in the cyanide bottle. When captured the female was suspended to a branch, which she had firmly grasped with her legs, whilst the male was hanging head downwards, but grasping his partner round her abdomen. Fig. 1, in the accompanying plate gives a side view of the insects *in cop.*; fig. 2 illustrates the male *Cyclochila australasiæ*, and fig. 3, the female, *Thopha saccata*.

The following is a brief list of references bearing on the subject :

Lowe (F.)—Records two fertile copulations of distinct species of Zygenidæ: *Z. carniolica*, Scop., male, with *Z. ephidles*, Linn. *Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien*, xvi., 1866, p. 951.

Andrews (W. V.)—On the Copulation of Distinct Species of Lepidoptera. *Canadian Entomologist*, iv., 1872, pp. 78 and 79.

Frey and Wullschlegel.—Hybrids occurring naturally between *Deilephila vespertilio*, Esp., and *D. hippophaes*, Esp.; *D. elpenor*, Linn., and *D. porcellus*, Linn.; and *Smerinthus ocellatus*, Linn., and *S. populi*, Linn. *Mittheil. Schw. ent. Ges.*, iv., 1874, pp. 206-210.