

the others knew nothing at all of the matter, that he has a peculiar view, founded on metamorphosis, which supersedes the necessity of further inquiry, and which establishes the place of the insect VII. to be between the insects IV. and VI. He demonstrates very clearly that both the others were wrong. Opinions innumerable are given on the subject; books are written; every opinion, as it emerges from the press, is proved correct. However, some persons venture to suppose, that as the writers differ so widely they cannot *all* be right. These persons are wrong; for the various characters in question can be accommodated by placing the insect VII. in the centre, and forming the others into a circle around it; then all the relations, on which the writers so strenuously insisted, will be accommodated. Is this the work of chance? Will any Entomologist, blessed with reasoning powers, contend that this wonderfully harmonizing of three diametrically, fundamentally, opposed systems, is the effect of accident?

Then abandoning this restricted view of the subject, let me ask if it is by accident that the Septenary System so entirely harmonizes with the three diametrically opposing systems on which all our Entomology is built?

It may be contended, and probably proved, that opinions were hazarded in "Sphinx Vespiformis," which are not supported in this article. It may also be contended that views are now broached which have no prototypes in "Sphinx Vespiformis." Be it so: I have no objection. I should consider it highly discreditable to adhere to views which more precise information rendered no longer tenable. As far as ideas go, I feel some doubt whether I did not once attach more value to the circular chain of relation, than I do at present; the more important characteristic of the Septenary System now appears, to me, to be radiation from a centre.

ART. XXXII.—*Notes about Cillenum Laterale and a submarine Species of Aleocharidæ.* By A. H. HALIDAY, M. A.

IN the month of May last, I found *Cillenum laterale* common under stones and tufts of sea-weed on the Port Rain sands (County Dublin), near low-water mark. They prey upon

sandhoppers (*Talitrus Locusta*, Leach,) seizing them by the soft parts of the underside, and, in this way, are able singly to master game many times their own bulk. Sometimes three or four beetles may be found in concert attacking a sandhopper of the largest size. The tide retiring has scarcely uncovered the sand, when these little depredators are abroad from their hiding-places and alert in the chase. A great part of their existence is passed under the sea, and the mode in which they obtain the necessary supply of oxygen during their prolonged submersion, when the small quantity in the air-bubble which they may convey with them is exhausted, seems to deserve a more particular investigation.^a It was at the same time and in the same situations that I detected the small brachelytrous beetle, which I have named and characterised below, supposing it to be undescribed. It is evidently allied to the genus *Gymnusa* (Karsten,) but while the latter assumes the appearance of the adjoining family *Tachyporidae*, the present has more the air of the *Oxytelidae*.^b The peculiar character of the mouth is more developed than in that genus, the appendages of the labium retaining nothing in their form to recall their typical function as palpi.

GEN.—DIGLOSSA.

Os rostratum. *Palpi maxillares elongati; articulo 3 subclarato, 4 obsoleto: palporum labialium loco laciniae 2 setaceae os superantes: antennae extrorsum rix incrassatae, articulo 2 longissimo: thorax postice attenuatus: abdomen lineare: tarsi 4-articulati, articulo unguiculare subaequali.*

Sp. 1. *Diglossa mersa* (Long. 1 lin.)

Dull black, slightly pubescent; head, thorax, and elytra minutely punctulate: palpi and legs dusky ferruginous, the middle of the shanks, the thighs, and antennae darker, the mandibles and feet lighter: head rounded at the sides, without a distinct neck: eyes minute: antennae rather longer than the head and thorax, slender,

^a Consult on this head the remarks on *Aepus fulvescens*, a species of similar habits, by Mr. Audouin. (Nouv. Annales du Museum, iii. 117.)

^b Observe the facts recorded in this Magazine, Vol. II. p. 180, relative to the submarine habits of *Hesperophilus*.

very little thickened externally; the 2d joint the longest, clavate; 1st nearly as long and more robust, cylindric; 3d shorter, obconic; those which follow very short globose, the exterior ones gradually broader and oblate; the last again longer globose-ovate: labrum transversely quadrangular, a little hollowed out in front: mandibles produced beyond the labrum, slender, acute, the tip slightly incurved, a small tooth on the inside beyond the middle: maxillæ very long, the junction of the scape and stern projecting in an angle from the cheek; the blades very slender, the outer setaceous, with its first joint short; the inner acute and slightly incurved at the extremity; the inside bordered sparingly with minute spines: palpi about as long as the head, slender; the 1st joint minute, the 2d and 3d of equal length, the latter slightly clavate, 4th entirely concealed: mentum transversely quadrangular, narrowed in front, with the margin straight: ligula ———? palpi represented by two parallel spines, so long as to pass beyond the extremity of the mandibles: thorax narrower than the head or elytra, longer than broad, narrowed behind (oblong-obcordate); elytra together, almost quadrate, the posterior angle not evidently notched: wings none: abdomen nearly as long as the rest of the body, linear, only the last two segments tapering: legs not long, shanks pubescent, foreshanks notched and spinous at the tip: fore feet exceedingly short, the joints scarcely distinct: hind feet not half as long as the shank, four-jointed, the last joint shorter than the first, but more robust; the claws strong and hooked.

Habitat in arenis maritimis (Hiberniæ) æstu alterno opertus et reiectus.

A. H. II.

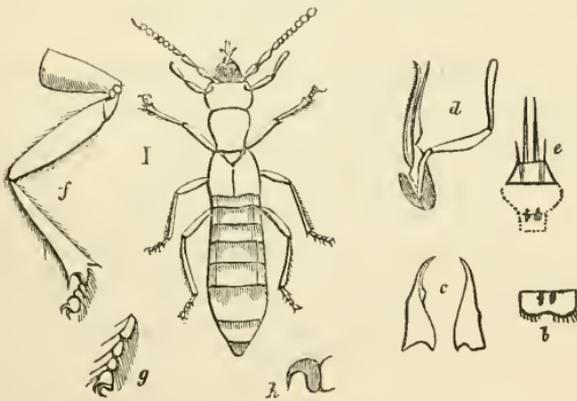


Fig. a. *Diglossa mersa*.

f. Fore leg.

g. Hind foot.

b—e. Details of the mouth.

h. A claw.