

**CATALOGUE OF THE  
COLEOPTEROUS INSECTS OF  
MADEIRA IN THE COLLECTION  
OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

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Catalogue of the Coleopterous Insects of Madeira in the Collection of the British Museum by T. Vernon Wollaston

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**T. VERNON WOLLASTON**

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CATALOGUE  
OF THE  
COLEOPTEROUS INSECTS  
OF  
M A D E I R A  
IN  
THE COLLECTION  
OF THE  
BRITISH MUSEUM.

BY  
T. VERNON WOLLASTON, M.A., F.L.S.

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C. S. ... ..

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## P R E F A C E.

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THIS Catalogue contains an enumeration of the specimens of Coleopterous Insects collected in Madeira by Mr. Wollaston, as described in his *Insecta Maderensia*, and of the species which he has obtained since the publication of that volume,—some of which were procured in the Island by Messrs. Bewicke, Mason and Ross, and have by these gentlemen been presented to the Museum Collection.

In the "Introductory Remarks" Mr. Wollaston has given an account of the collections, and of the object of the Catalogue.

JOHN EDWARD GRAY.

Aug. 15, 1857.

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## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

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ALTHOUGH strictly an enumeration of the Madeiran Coleoptera contained in the British Museum, the present Catalogue has the advantage of being also a *general* one; for, through the liberality of the only three gentlemen (Messrs. Bewicke, Mason, and Ross) who happened to possess what I could not myself place there, I am glad to have it in my power to state, that *every species which has been hitherto detected in those islands is now represented in the National Collection.*

Exactly 100\* species (83 of which I have regarded as new to science) have been brought to light, in the Madeiras, since the publication of the *Insecta Maderensis*, in 1854; three moreover (*Trechus laevis*, *Ellipsodes oblongior*, and *Stenus fulvessens*) have been added, which I had looked upon, up to that date, as mere modifications of others; whilst five forms, which, from insufficient evidence, I had described as species (*viz. Tarphius spinipes, Pinus longicornis, Atlantis lauripotens* and *austrinus*, and *Stagonomorpha unicolor*), have been treated as varieties: so that the *total number* is now augmented (from 482) to 580.

As would of course be anticipated, these 580 species are composed of insects which are partly indigenous and partly introduced; and it is only by a careful observation of them *in situ*, and a close inquiry into their various habits, that it can be decided to which of those two classes the several creatures belong. In some instances indeed

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\* Of these 100 additions, I may observe that 14 (*viz. Dromius alutaceus* and *plagiatus, Rhyzophagus bipustulatus, Silvanus unidentatus, Cryptophagus saginatus, Tomicus erosus, Acalles festinus, Blabimotus Bewickii, Longitarus fractus* and *azoricus, Rhyzobius oscitatusimus, Homalota montivagans, Philonthus punctipennis*, and *Lithocharis debilisicornis*) were discovered by Mr. Bewicke; five (*viz. Cercyon litorale, Pogonocherus hepidus, Hypophlaeus ambiguus, Helops subdepressus*, and *Homalota alutaria*) by Mr. Mason; two (*viz. Olisthopus acutangulus* and *Bembidium dubium*) by Mr. M. Park; one (*Caesida Rossii*) by Mr. J. J. Ross; one (*Formicomus pedestris*) by Mr. E. Leacock; one (*Tomicus perforans*) by Mrs. Phelps; and the remaining 76 by myself.

it is not possible to solve this question with any degree of certainty; nevertheless in a vast number of cases it is by no means difficult to do so; and I am satisfied that local data, if attentively considered, will usually enable us to distinguish pretty clearly, at any rate, the *ultra-indigenous* ones (if we may thus express them) from those which have been naturalized. Accordingly, in the following Catalogue, I have indicated by a double asterisk (\*\*) those species which have been *undoubtedly imported*; some of these are indeed well nigh cosmopolitan, and are (in Madeira, as elsewhere) liable to be introduced afresh, by direct human agencies, almost every year. To those which there is strong reason to believe have *found their way to the islands*, through various accidental circumstances, during the last few centuries (*i. e.* since the Group was first colonized), I have affixed a single asterisk (\*); whilst those which are left unmarked are, in my opinion, indigenous.

There is still, however, another distinction to be drawn, before we can properly attempt to generalize. It is manifest that these *indigenous* members of the fauna are made up, in reality, of two kinds; for, though they are *all* of them "indigenous" in the common acceptation of that term, it is evident (if there be any truth in the doctrine of specific centres of creation) that some must have found their way to where they now are, at a very remote epoch, *through natural causes* (perhaps by migration over a land of passage which has been since destroyed), operating regularly and during an immense interval of time; whilst others are absolutely *endemic*, occurring apparently in no other country of the world, and being therefore (if we may repeat our former expression) "*ultra-indigenous*,"—the very *autochthones* of the soil, called originally into being to satisfy the special requirements of the spot, and adapted therefore to the particular physical conditions which they were destined, through after-ages, to be subservient to. Now it is not always easy to draw the line of separation between the creatures which fall under these two opposite heads; and therefore in the body of this volume I have not ventured to do so, but have simply contented myself by regarding them all as indigenous. Still, since a *large number* of the unasterisked ones are *eminently characteristic* (as it were) of these islands—being not only of slow migratory powers, and singularly adjusted to the nature of their several "habitata," but presenting likewise (in a more or less evident combination) certain *geographical peculiarities* which tend to affiliate them with what I would emphatically call the *Madeiran types*; I have thought it desirable, in the list appended to these introductory remarks, to indicate such species by putting them in *italics*.

We have therefore four sets of beings to take into account :

1st, those which are *manifestly introduced*, being (from their modes of subsistence) constantly liable to importation into the islands *by direct human agencies* ;

2ndly, those which have been *probably naturalized*, through various accidental circumstances, since the commencement of the period at which the Madeiras were first colonized ;

3rdly, those which are indigenous, but which have probably migrated thither, at a remote epoch, *through regular and natural processes*,—whether over a land of passage, or transported from more northern latitudes (during other conditions of climate) on floating masses of ice ; and

4thly, those which were *created* in that region, and which still remain endemic,—not having been able, even to this day (the result partly, perhaps, of their after-isolation), to extend themselves far beyond the primeval areas of their birth.

Bearing in mind therefore the special characters of these four Coleopterous assortments, we will make a few practical remarks on our general statistics,—making use, however, of the above (somewhat finely-drawn) distinctions only in those cases in which the application of them would seem sufficiently simple and apparent to warrant anything like satisfactory conclusions being deduced from them.

Let us first observe, then, that out of the 580 species which have been detected in the Madeiran Group, 45, at any rate (if not a greater number), are *manifestly of recent importation* ; that at least 75 have probably found their way thither, through various accidental causes, since the islands were first colonized ; and that the remaining 460 are apparently indigenous,—only 266 of which, however, come under the class which we have defined as “*ultra-indigenous*” (the other 194 having possibly migrated from neighbouring regions, by regular and natural processes, at some remote epoch when facilities were offered which do not now exist for letting-in the members of adjoining tracts over this ancient Atlantic province).

But, before we proceed, we may just pause to notice a small collateral result which the above statement will enable us to arrive at.

\* I have preferred this term (however barbarous) to “*endemic*,” because it conveys a more correct notion of the creatures to which it is applied. Had I used the latter word, I could scarcely (with only the *probability* to justify me, of certain of the species occurring elsewhere also) have consistently withheld it from any of the Coleoptera which have hitherto been observed exclusively at the Madeiras,—the result in many instances, as I cannot but believe, of the merest accident. I would repeat therefore, that the insects thus designated have a better reason for being regarded as *par excellence* indigenous, than that which the fact (important as it necessarily is) of their not having been as yet discovered elsewhere does, of itself, afford.