

in order that success might attend his efforts and the fish be permitted to die. The method adopted for this purpose was to beat the plant (*Tephrosia toxicaria*, Pers.* , B. C.-Am., Bot. i. p. 258) on the rocks until a froth not unlike soap-suds was formed, this when mixed with the water caused the fish to sicken and come to the surface. At intervals V-shaped wicker guides were placed, so that the fish floated down to the point of the V, where they were then collected in baskets, and when not otherwise required were used as food by the Indians, who considered them perfectly wholesome. Vast numbers were thus obtained, and from them I made a selection and preserved a good many specimens in spirit (aguardiente), but was somewhat disappointed to find there were but few species represented. On my return to the Capital I journeyed to the Alotepeque silver-mines in company with the manager, and thence to Copan, Honduras, where, after spending a couple of days in examining the interesting ruins, I proceeded *viâ* Zacapa to Yzabal, and there met Salvin on his way back from Belize. Here we again parted, I returning to England, while he started for Dueñas and the interior, passing through the 'Altos,' staying at Totonicapam and Quezaltenango, and making expeditions to the Costa Grande, Retalhuleu, and the lagoons of the Pacific coast at Huamuchal, close to the Mexican frontier. Salvin returned home early in 1863.

During our outward journey to Guatemala in August 1861 Salvin and I passed through the Azorean Archipelago, and I then wished I could stop and explore these islands, but onward we went and soon again lost sight of land. I frequently throughout the voyage recalled these isolated islands and determined, should opportunity occur, that I would explore their fauna and flora at some future date. It was not, however, till the spring of 1865 that I was able to carry out this project. The careful researches of Wollaston and others had brought to light many interesting forms from Madeira, the Canaries, and Cape Verde Islands; but the Azores had been very imperfectly explored, and it was with the idea of giving a more satisfactory account of the natural history of these islands, and to trace their relationship to the neighbouring Archipelagos, that I decided to investigate their fauna. Oranges from St. Michael's then formed almost the only trade with England, and in connection with the business large numbers of schooners were employed, but with this exception there was no regular, direct communication with England. A small steamer, which carried the mails, left Lisbon once a month for the two nearest groups of islands, but rarely visited the two outer ones. Accompanied by my brother, Captain Temple Godman, I took a passage in this vessel, and shortly after our arrival at St. Michael's we were joined by Mr. Brewer, a well known coleopterist whom I had engaged for the purpose of collecting. Interest in island faunas had been much stimulated by the publication of Darwin's 'Geology of the Voyage of the "Beagle"' and other works on

* Order Leguminosæ.