

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES.

PLATE XIII. Fig. 1.

- 1 a. The nest of *Myrmica Kirbii* reduced in size according to the subjoined scale, with the ants of the natural size creeping upon it. 1 b. The male.
1 c. The neuter.

ATTA PROVIDENS, Sykes.

Plate XIII. Fig. 2.

♀ Nigra, capite magno, mandibulis et antennis nigris tarsisque flavescentibus. Caput maximum, oblongo-quadratum, postice emarginatum, piceo-nigrum. Mandibulæ latæ arcuatæ, apice truncatæ, dentibus duobus, anticè minutis. Antennæ nigræ, articulis tribus ultimis incrassatis. Thorax parvus, subbipartitus, antice convexus posticeque bispinosus. Squama anterior petiolaris parva, transversa, posterior transverso-elevata, lateribus acute productis. Abdomen rotundatum. Pedum femoribus et tibiis piceis, geniculis ferrugineis tarsisque pallidioribus.

Long. corp. lin. $2\frac{3}{4}$, lat. corp. lin. 1.

Habitat in India Orientali circa Poona.

Mus. Dom. Sykes.

In illustration of the habits of this species of ant I shall give the following extract from my Diary.

“Poona, June 19, 1829.—In my morning walk I observed more than a score of little heaps of grass-seeds (*Panicum*) in several places on uncultivated land near the parade-ground; each heap contained about a handful. On examination I found they were raised by the above species of ant, hundreds of which were employed in bringing up the seeds to the surface from a store below: the grain had probably got wet at the setting in of the monsoon, and the ants had taken advantage of the first sunny day to bring it up to dry. The store must have been laid up from the time of the ripening of the grass-seeds in January and February. As I was aware this fact militated against the observations of entomologists in Europe, I was careful not to deceive myself by confounding the seeds of a panicum with the pupæ of the insect. Each ant was charged with a single seed; but as it was too weighty for many of them, and as the strongest had some difficulty in scaling the perpendicular sides of the cylindrical hole leading to the nest below, many were the falls of the weaker ants with their burthens from near the summit to the bottom. I observed they never relaxed their hold, and with a perseverance affording a useful lesson to humanity, steadily recommenced the ascent after each successive tumble, nor halted in their labour until they