

A NEW LAC-INSECT FROM JAMAICA.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO.

The lac-producing Coccidæ are usually referred to the genus *Carteria*, Signoret, but as this name is pre-occupied in Protozoa, Signoret (Bull. Soc. Ent. Fr., 1886) substituted for it the term *Tachardia*. The known species referable to this genus are five, namely :—

1. *Tachardia lacca* (Kerr.) India, on 43 species of plants of 18 natural orders (Watt, Dict. Econ. Prod. India, II., 1889, p. 409-412); British Guiana, on *Erythroxylon* (*Timehri*, Dec. 1890, p. 308).

2. *Tachardia larreae* (Comst.), Arizona, on *Larrea*. (Rep. U. S. Dept. Agr., 1882).

3. *Tachardia mexicana* (Comst.), Tampico, Mexico, on *Mimosa*. (Rep. U. S. Dept. Agr., 1882).

4. *Tachardia melaleuca* (Maskell), Australia, on *Melaleuca*, &c. (Tr. N. Z. Inst., 1891).

5. *Tachardia acaciæ* (Maskell), Australia, on *Acacia*. (Tr. N. Z. Inst., 1891).

To these may now be added a sixth, as follows :—

6. *Tachardia gemmifera*, n. sp., Kingston, Jamaica, on *Chrysobalanus icaco*, Linn.

Some months ago, Mr. H. Vendryes directed my attention to a Coccid which was damaging a Coco Plum in his garden, and kindly gave me some twigs with many scales upon them. These were evidently referable to a new *Tachardia*, which I call *gemmifera*, on account of the ruby-like prominence on the dorsum of the scale. The female scales (if the covering of lac can properly be so called) are subglobular, shiny, crimson-black, with a crimson ruby-like prominence on the centre of the back, best seen in somewhat immature examples. There are also one or two dorso-lateral prominences, more or less obscure. Sides with 4 or 5 keel-like folds. There is a conspicuous subdorsal aperture.

Length of scale, 5 mill. ; diam., 5 mill. ; alt., about 4 mill.

The scales are extremely hard, but will fracture if sufficiently pressed ; sides of scale crimson by transmitted light.

The lac when heated melts to a substance about the colour of guava jelly, which turns crimson on the application of caustic soda: this colour-change is most marked.

The *female* is very broad oval, almost circular, posteriorly bluntly angled. On breaking open a scale, it is seen not to be completely filled