

sand-crabs breathe air through an aperture placed between the bases of the third and fourth pairs of walking legs, and leading to the gill chamber. They soon die when kept for a short time beneath the water, as shown by Fritz Muller's experiments.*

A lizard (a gecko) is very common both at St. Vincent and San Jago. It appears to be the *Tarentola Delalandii* of Madeira, or closely allied to this.

A beetle, a species of *Cicindela*, is very common on the dry sand along the seashore, and is very difficult to catch. The beetles sit five or six together on the sand, and fly off before the wind directly they are approached. They are so quick that I could not catch them with my net. I found, however, that if a handful of sand were thrown at them, they seemed paralyzed for a few moments, and could be picked up with the hand.

Most of the insects on the island are to be found amongst the clumps of tamarisk. An Ant-lion (*Myrmeleon*) is very common, making pitfalls for the ants under the lee of all the tamarisk bushes. Spiders are abundant. A large and handsome yellow spider (*Nephila*), makes large webs of yellow silk everywhere amongst the bushes. The silk is remarkably strong, and the supporting threads of the web often bend the tips of the tamarisk twigs, to which they are fastened, right down. Either the spider drags on the thread and bends the twig, or the twig becomes bent in growing, after being made fast to. The result is that the thread is kept tense, although yielding to the wind.

I ascended one day one of the steep slopes on the north-east side of the town, on the leeward side of the encircling range of the island. It was terribly hot and parchingly dry, but the instant the summit was reached, the refreshing trade wind was felt in full force, and its influence was everywhere seen in the increased vegetation, and wherever it lapped over the crest, or crept through a gully, green tufts marked its range.

I climbed a peak about 850 feet in altitude, from which there was a comprehensive view of the island, showing well the general outward dip of the strata composing the encircling range. In the distance was the irregular mountainous outline of the island of St. Antonio, which was blue and hazy-looking, with a line of white clouds hanging against it at a height of about 2,000 feet. How I longed to be at the summit of the principal mountain, 7,000 feet high, to see the European wild thyme growing there far above the Atlantic and African plants!

* "Facts and Arguments for Darwin," p. 33. London, John Murray, 1869.