

NOTES ON TASMANIAN DIPTERA AND DESCRIPTION OF NEW SPECIES.

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CYRTIDÆ.

ONCODES BASALIS, Walk.

Henops basalis, Walk. Ins Saund. Dipt. 1. Pg. 203, 1852.

Ogcodes darwinii, Westw. Trans. Ent. Soc., Lond. Pg. 516, 1876.

„ *fortunni*, Westw., id., 1876.

„ *ignava*, Westw., id., 1876.

„ *tasmanica*, Westw., id., 1876.

„ *doddi*, Wandol. Trans. Ent. Soc., Lond. Pg. 131, 1906.

Oncodes flavescens, White, P and P. Roy. Soc., Tasm. Pg. 70, 1914; Hardy, id. Pg. 267, 1916.

„ *nigrinervis*, White, id. Pg. 71, 1914.

„ *ater*, White, id. Pg. 72, 1914.

„ *var. ater*, Hardy, id. Pg. 267, 1916.

„ *pygmæus*, White, id. Pg. 72, 1914 (discoloured variety).

There can be little doubt about the above synonymy. I have, unfortunately, not seen specimens from Adelaide, so cannot check *O. darwinii* and *fortunni* of Westwood.* A good photographic illustration of *O. doddi*, Wand., does not differ in any respect from numerous Tasmanian ex-

*Since the above was written, I have received for identification from the Director of the South Australian Museum, ten specimens of *Cyrtidæ*, comprising the following species:—

Pterodontia, sp. 2 specimens, Flinders Range.

Oncodes basalis, Walk., 5 males, 1 female, Adelaide.

„ „ 1 female, Mullewa, W.A.

„ „ 1 female, Lawson, N.S.W.

The Adelaide *O. basalis* conforms with specimens from Cradle Mt., Tasmania, in every respect in the male. The female is too inferior in condition for comparative examination. Both sexes, however, are large. The West Australian specimen is normal, but the abdomen shows slight discoloration towards that of *pygmæus*, as described by White. The addition of Western Australia to the distribution of this species seems to suggest that the insect will be found to occur throughout Australia.

amples I have examined, and the description comes well within the limits of this very variable species.

This gives a surprising range for the species, covering Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria, as well as Tasmania, from an elevation of 3,000ft. down to sea level.

Walker's description of *basilis* is from a New South Wales example. I have Tasmanian examples showing the chief characteristics described by Walker.

Cradle Mt. specimens range to 9 mm. in length; these are the largest I have seen.

White overlooked Westwood's *Ogyodes tasmanica*.

EPICERINA NIGRICORNIS.

Epicerina nigricornis, Macq., Dipt. Exot. Suppl. 4, pg. 98, 1849.

White overlooked this description, the type of which is recorded from Tasmania. No specimen of *Cyrtidæ* has been found recently to correspond with this species in Tasmania.

STRATIOMYIDÆ.

Genus ODONTOMYIA.

In the revision of the Australian Stratiomyidæ (Proc. Lin. Soc., N.S.W., Vol. XLI., No. 161, pg. 71, 1916), White has placed the synonymy of the genus *Odontomyia* in a condition that cannot be accepted as satisfactory. *O. hunteri*, King, has priority over *amyris*, Walk., and several descriptions are overlooked.

In my own series there are only four well defined species, the remainder being apparently only variations, the intermediate forms of which are found in Tasmania, although specimens agreeing entirely with the published descriptions have not been found in every case.

I consider the following provisional synonymy will ultimately be found correct:—

Odontomyia hunteri, King., 1827.

decipiens, Guer., 1830; *regis-georgii*, Macq., 1838; *carinata*, Macq., 1846; *stylata*, Macq., 1847; *amyris*, Walk., 1849; *ialmenus*, Walk., 1849; *rufifacies*, Macq., 1851; and *pectoralis*, Thoms., 1869; *?annulipes*, Macq., 1851; *?marginella*, Macq., 1851; *?subdentata*, Macq., 1851; *?picea*, Walk., 1851.

O. lateremaculata, Macq., and *carinifacies*, Macq., are being fast linked by intermediate forms. I do not think they can be maintained as separate species.

O. stricta, Er.—I am uncertain concerning the proper place for this species. White also left it for further consideration.

O. sydneyensis, Schin., and *kirchneri*, Jaen, are only known to me by name. I have not yet procured the descriptions.

Stratiomys badius, Walk., is given in Kertész's Catalogue of Diptera as being an American species, and not Australian. I think this is the only name that need be retained in "Species expurgatæ."

The above remarks are based mostly upon identifications of Tasmanian specimens. I have seen insufficient material from the mainland to check the synonymy provisionally given above.

ODONTOMYIA AMYRIS, Walk.

The mountain form of this species has the face with a broad black margin above, in both male and female.

Hab. Mt. Wellington and Cradle Mt., 2,000ft. to 4,000ft.

Specimens from King Island, taken by Mr. A. M. Lea, have this character more or less present. Other isolated specimens have also this character in variation.

This form is equivalent to *annulipes*, Macq., except that the tibiæ have no black ring. *Annulipes* was described from Tasmania, so there can be no question but that the mountain form of *amyris* is intermediate between *amyris* as White described it and *annulipes* of Macquart.

The Tasmanian record of *subdentata*, Macq., given by White in Proc. Roy. Soc., Tasm., pg. 260, 1916, belongs to *amyris*, with the face margined above black.

ODONTOMYIA OPERTANEA, White.

New to the Tasmanian Fauna. Agrees with White's description, except that the antenna has the third joint not much longer than the first and second together. The species is only known from a single specimen from Victoria, which is in England, so I have been unable to check the proportions of the antennæ, which may be a clerical error. It is not advisable to risk further synonymy until the present puzzles in nomenclature of this genus have been solved.

Hab. Cradle Mt., about 3,000ft.; 2 females, 17th Jan., 1917.

Genus PACHYGASTER.

This genus is represented in my collection by two Tasmanian specimens, both taken in the centre of Hobart.

NEOEXAIRETA SPINIGERA, Walk.

This species has been taken several times by Mr. F. M. Littler and Mr. C. Cole at Launceston, and so must be added to the Tasmanian list.

TABANIDÆ.

Gen. PELECORHYNCHUS.

Two new species, and one variety of this interesting and rare genus are here added. *P. cristaloides*, subsp. *montanus*, must now rank as a distinct species, and not a local Mountain variety, so a fuller description is given to augment the previous scanty remarks. It seems probable that the genus is chiefly marsh frequenting, so large tracks of marsh areas, both in Australia and Tasmania, are likely to produce many new species.

The following key will easily separate all the known Tasmanian species of this genus:—

1. Abdomen black, shining. *fuscaniger*, Walk.
 Abdomen banded. 2
2. Bands on abdomen interrupted in the centre. 4
 Bands not interrupted centrally. 3
3. Bands on abdomen conspicuous, eyes in male touching. *nigripennis*, Ric.
 Bands on abdomen obscure, eyes separate in male. *igniculus*, sp. nov.
4. White stripe on black stripe of thorax, wings spotted, abdomen without red hair. *albolineatus*, sp. nov.
 White spot (sometimes absent) on black stripe of thorax. 5
5. Abdomen with red hair, wings spotted. *cristaloides*, Walk.
 Abdomen without red hair, wings unspotted. 6
6. White spot on thorax conspicuous, black centre stripe of scutellum does not extend on to thorax. *montanus*, Hardy.
 White spot on thorax obscure or absent, the black stripe of scutellum extends on to the thorax. *montanus*, var. *a.*, var. nov.

PELECORHYNCHUS IGNICULUS, *sp. nov.*

This species has the appearance of being a small *crystaloides*, with obscure abdominal bands, and the two white spots on the black stripes of the thorax extended anteriorly to form a white stripe. The obscure abdominal bands, however, are not interrupted in the centre, and the eyes in the male are separate.

Male. Brownish. Proboscis black, palpi black, with black hairs; face with the convex part black, covered with light grey tomentum on the upper half, hairs black; the remainder of the head light grey, with yellow hairs, except round the ocelli and the fringe behind the eyes which are black. Antennæ red, more or less stained black in some specimens. Eyes separate. Thorax with two black stripes, down the centre of which a white stripe divides the anterior half longitudinally. Hairs black; above the wing there is a little red hair, and a tuft of yellowish hairs; below the wing there is a tuft of white and a tuft of yellow hairs. Scutellum fringed with red hairs. Abdomen; apex of segments fringed with red hair; in some specimens the red hair extends more or less all over the abdomen. The bands on the segments 2, 3, and 4 more or less obscure, but never interrupted in the centre, although there is a tendency to become more or less obscure on either side of the centre leaving an isolated spot in centre of each segment. Legs reddish; wings similar to *crystaloides*.

Female. Similar to male, eyes widely separated, black hairs on front, all hairs on abdomen red, and a general tendency of some hairs on the head and thorax to become red. Abdominal bands more obscure.

Length. 13.5 mm. - 15 mm.

Hab. Cradle Mt. (Pencil-pine Creek); about 3,700 ft.; Jan., 1917; 4 males and 1 female.

PELECORHYNCHUS ALBOLINEATUS, *sp. nov.*

Similar to *crystaloides*, no red hair, and the white spot on the thorax elongated to a stripe; abdomen banded, the bands interrupted centrally and the wings spotted.

Male. Face very variable, either reddish, black or greyish. Antennæ reddish, more or less suffused with black. Palpi more or less reddish with black hairs. Hair on convex portion of face, front, and a fringe behind the eyes, black; elsewhere on head yellow. Eyes contiguous. Thorax with a broad black stripe, on which is situated a grey-white stripe anteriorly. There is also a more or less

obscure thin white line running from the white stripe along the transverse suture, reaching half-way to the wing. The ground colour of the thorax is bright slate-grey, and is much suffused with brown and black, forming no constant pattern other than that described above, but the area just above, and the basal area of the scutellum, is always free from black markings; at most there is a slight trace of brown on the scutellum (in this it differs from *montanus*, which has these areas, either one or both, marked with black). Wings spotted, the fork of the cubital vein often with a recurrent veinlet (appendix).

Female. Similar to male, eyes separate, front brown, black or dark greyish.

Length. 15-19 mm.

Hab. Cradle Mt., above 3,700ft. 6 males, 9 females, Jan., 1917.

Mr. R. J. Tillyard took a specimen of this species depositing eggs in mud.

PELECORHYNCHUS MONTANUS, *Hardy*.

P. cristaloides, *subsp. montanus*, Hardy, P. and P. Roy. Soc., Tasm., pg. 269, 1916.

Male. Face with black and yellow hairs, otherwise head as in *cristaloides*. Thorax dull slate-grey, on which is situated two black stripes, interrupted by a small white-grey spot; a black stripe on apical half of sides of thorax. Scutellum with a central line, and apical margin black, fringed with thick bright yellow hairs. Abdomen black; second, third, and fourth segments with white bands interrupted in the centre, and sometimes fringed with yellow hairs. The other hairs black, and black and yellow on the white bands.

Female. Differs from the male in that all the hairs on the convex portion of the face are black, eyes separate, front brown.

Hab. Mt. Wellington, 4,000ft.

Var. a. Hair on the convex portion of face black in both male and female. The stripe on the thorax thinner, and more uniform; the central black stripe of scutellum extends on to the thorax, and the white spot on the black stripes of thorax more or less obsolete, leaving a dull slate ground colour in its place.

Hab. Cradle Mt., about 3,700ft., Jan., 1917. 3 males, 2 females.

ASILIDÆ.

BRACHYRRHOPALA RUFICORNIS, *Macq.*

A specimen in Mr. F. M. Littler's collection was taken at Launceston on 24th Dec., 1916.

LAPHRIA NIVEIFACIES, *Macq.*

A specimen in the Museum is labelled "Ulverstone, Tas., Lea."

BOMBILIDÆ.

COMPTOSIA CORCULUM, *Walk.*

This is a mountain species, occurring in moderate numbers on Mt. Wellington, between 2,000 and 3,000 ft., where it can be taken throughout the summer. The Tasmanian specimens do not differ from *C. geometrica*, *Macq.* other than in the number of submarginal cells, and in its average larger size. The method of dividing one submarginal cell into two is very variable. Sometimes a veinlet joins the radial vein with the upper branch of the cubital fork. At other times the radial vein takes a sharp curve and runs down to the upper branch of the cubital fork, along which it runs for a more or less short distance, then runs up to resume the normal course. It sometimes happens that the apical portion of the radial vein runs to meet the basal portion of the radial vein, forming an area enclosed similar to the areolet of some *Ichneumonidæ*.