On some little-known British Spiders.

Wideria cecullah, C. L. Koch.

Wideria cecullah, C. L. K., Camb., List of British & Irish Spiders, 1900.

The type of W. incerta is an immature male of W. cecullah. The tibial apophysis is not really continued transversely across the dorsum of the tarsus, although some long hairs in this position give something of this appearance with poor illumination. This apophysis is quite developed and typical of W. cecullah. The palpal organs are, however, enveloped in membrane. The capitulum, too, is quite undeveloped, and, as certainly as one can be certain of immature spiders, this is an example of W. cecullah.

Wideria fuga, Camb.

Prosopotheca incisa, Camb.

This is a fine distinct species which I had not seen before. The epigyne is curiously like that of Cornicularia cayidate, Bl., but in other respects the spider is very different.

Walcenaea cappito, Weistr.

Walcenaea cappito, Weistr., Camb., List of British & Irish Spiders, 1900.

Cornicularia padus, Camb., List of British & Irish Spiders, 1900.


There is no doubt at all that the type of C. padus, which is a female, is identical with what is supposed to be the female of W. cappito. This female has, however, never been found accompanying an adult male, and there is some doubt whether it really is the female of W. cappito. However, until more evidence is forthcoming, it is best considered as such.

Cornicularia karpinskii, Camb.

XII.—Note on the Thorax in Anoplura and in Nesiotes. By Bruce E. CUMMINS (British Museum of Natural History).

On the Thorax in Anoplura and in Nesiotes. 171

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Thorax in Anoplura.

The three segments of the thorax are fused together.* On the dorsal surface in most species may be seen certain transverse bars or raf ters of thick chitin, which serve to support the thoracic nota, to provide on the extreme lateral margin a point for the attachment of the coxae on each side, and may roughly represent the original delimiting lines between pro-, meso-, and metanotum. No epimeral or episternal pieces can be traced at the sides. The fused thoracic notum fits down as a kind of "lid" upon the sternal surface, which shows no sign of segmentation at all, and in many species carries a single sternal plate of various sizes and shapes.

* My friend Mr. Harrison points out that the prothorax is distinct in Hematomyzus, which I have not seen.
some interest, inasmuch as it affords us with an example—I imagine, rare in the Insects—of the attachment of the coxae to the margin of the dorsal or notal surface. The coxae, roughly cup-shaped, are applied by their concave surfaces to the ventro-lateral region of the thorax on each side. The lower (or inner) half of the edge of each cup is attached to the sternal surface, while the upper (or outer) half reaches to the depressed margin of the notum, which on each side has a clearly marked rim, and is usually strengthened by a dark longitudinal bar connecting up each transverse rafter. Just where the upper half of each coxal cup establishes a point of contact with the notal rim the chitin of the latter becomes thickened, and often runs out into a dark depressed promontory or jetty—one for each coxa. A rafter runs in from each jetty.

It is unnecessary to summarize here the form and course of these exoskeletal rafters; suffice it to say that, with the exception of the meso-metanotal one in many Heterotopini for example, they rarely run right across the upper surface, but disappear before halfway into the thinner chitin of the middle area.

I believe I have discovered in Heterotopinus asiini a pair of clavicles within the prothorax, very much as they occur in some Mallocphaga; while in many, if not all, Heterotopini there is present in the middle of the metanotal region a structure of some interest, not hitherto described. It shows on the surface as a small circular depression, but in specimens passed through caustic potash the depression is seen to be the mouth of a small chitinous funnel, which does not descend into the thorax perpendicularly, but is directed backwards as well as downwards, so as to lie beneath, and in many cases to project behind, the posterior margin of the metanotum. The funnel is graduated, and ends blindly in a point, like a dune’s cap. It should be regarded presumably as a thoracic apodeme for the attachment of muscles, and a more careful examination of it by the method of sections might produce results of interest. In one form or another all the members of the genus Heterotopinus, I believe, possess this funnel, and it occurs also in Antarctopthirius ogmorhini, End., and in a less funnel-shaped condition in A. trioeeci (Boh.), and Pediculus capitis, De Geer.

THORAX IN NESIOTINUS (MALLOPHAGA).

The much more complicated thorax of the Mallophaga presents a very interesting study in comparative anatomy; but as a memoir which, I believe, will include this subject in its scope is in course of preparation by my friend Mr. Launcelot Harrison, B.Sc., of the University of Sydney, I intend to do no more here than to correct an error extant concerning the thorax of the remarkable species Nesiotinus demerovis, Kellogg. For our knowledge of this parasite we are indebted to Prof. Vernon Lyman Kellogg, of the Leland Stanford Junior University, California, who, so long ago as in 1903, published a short description in the Biological Bulletin of the Marine Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass. (vol. v. p. 59, 1903), of a single female specimen received from Dr. Günther Fenderlein, and taken on a Kerguelen penguin, Aptenodytes longirostris.

No other specimen, according to my knowledge, has since been recorded, and therefore the capture of another female in November 1913 on a king penguin (Aptenodytes sp. pen-nanti) in the Bay of Isles, S. Georgia, by Mr. P. Stummwitz (who accompanied the late Major Gerald Barretri-Hamilton on his whaling expedition) is worthy of being placed on record.

Kellogg remarks that one of the distinguishing features of the genus and species is “the complete distinction of the pro-, meso-, and metathorax in a degree unequalled elsewhere among the known Mallophaga, unless it be in Trinoton.” Further on he remarks that the meta-segment is “nearly as wide as the first (widest) abdominal segment,” and so resembles an abdominal segment.

No particular reasons are adduced in favour of this singular interpretation; until all Mallophagan morphology is against it. A comparative study of the thorax of Mallophaga makes it certain that the thorax of Nesiotinus consists of pro- and metathorax, the mesothorax being quite absent, and that Kellogg has mistaken the first segment of the abdomen for the metathorax. The thorax of Nesiotinus is short, and consequently on the sternal surface but little space is left for the articulation of the legs, which are relatively large appendages. There is therefore a good reason why the acetabular bars should be prolonged backwards, so that the hind legs are suspended from the base of the abdomen.

A similar state of affairs occurs in Menopon antennatum, Koll. & Paine, where the short thorax has involved a lengthening of the acetabular bars of both the second and third pairs of legs, so that the second pair appears to come from under the metathorax and the third pair from as low down as the second abdominal segment.

Kellogg’s interpretation allows only seven segments in the abdomen and only five pairs of spiracles. In all Mallophaga...
Mr. C. H. T. Townsend on Two new

except Glicicola and possibly Trimeneops there are six pairs of abdominal spiracles, and they open upon either the third to the eighth or upon the second to the seventh segments—never upon the first segment.

Finally, neither the chaetotaxy nor the colouration lend any support to Kellogg’s interpretation.


Conochrysooma, gen. nov.

Genotype, Conochrysooma snyderi, sp. n.
Differs from Chrysomastica as follows:—Female only: Eyes bare. Vertex about three-fourths width of one eye. Ocellar bristles very small, but distinct, short. Outer verticals scarcely developed. Second antennal joint elongate, the third only one and one-half times second. Arista shorter. Face rather flattened, epistoma quite prominent, vibrissae well above oral margin. Parafacials bristly in middle. Four lateral pairs of scutellar macrochaetae; a short median pair on first abdominal segment, no discal on intermediate segments. Hind tibie short-ciliate, with a longer bristle below middle.

Conochrysooma snyderi, sp. n.
Length of body 11.5 mm., of wing 9.5 mm.
One female, Luque, Congo (D. W. Snyder).
Face dark silvery, the parafacials with a faint greenish lustre. Cheeks silvery, with a bronze lustre. Parafrontals greenish bronze. Frontalia and antennae blackish, the second antennal joint brown. Palpi fuscous, infuscated at base. Mesoscutum and arcuate area on base of scutellum greenish bronze; five vitre showing, widening and narrowing with the incidence of light, the middle one disappearing in front of suture in some lights. Pleure, humeri, and outer aspect of front femora rather silvery. Abdomen and very broad margin of scutellum bright frosted green, the first segment and rather irregular hind borders of others black.


Genera of African Muscicidae.

Venter pale brownish. Legs blackish brown. Wings faintly infuscated, tegulae nearly white.

Holotype, no. 19576 U.S. N. M.
Named in honour of Mr. D. W. Snyder.

Octyderomima, gen. nov.

Genotype, Octyderomima polita, sp. n.
Related to the Aphria-Ercohia series of groups, from the genera of which it may be distinguished by the following characters:—Female only: Front anteriorly about width of eye, gently narrowing to vertex; face widening thereafter at same angle. Parafacials rather narrow, not as wide as third antennal joint. Frontalia occupying nearly one-third of frontal width posteriorly. No ocellae. Inner verticals strong, reclinare, not decussate; no outer verticals. Two procline and two reclinate fronto-orbitals. Only one frontal below base of antennae. Second antennal joint only slightly elongate; third narrow, of even width, about three times as long as second. Arista slender, finely pubescent, a little thickened on basal half, rather tapered, basal joints very short. Epistoma produced, but vibrissae very close to oral margin. Cheeks narrow, the eyes descending as low as vibrissae. Eyes practically bare, only very faintly and sparsely short-hairy. Proboscis rather short, but corneous, part below gasterulation hardly as long as lower border of head; palpi slender, short, sublineiform. Two sterno-plerurals and three posttarsals. Scutellum without apical or discal bristles, but with one long postero-lateral and one very short antero-lateral. No discal on abdomen, first two segments with median marginal pair, last two with marginal row. Abdomen subcylindrical, but swollen in middle, thence tapering both ways. Legs slender, not very elongate. Apical cell open, constricted apically, ending a little before wing-tip. Cubitus abruptly rounded; hind cross-vein nearer same, straight. Third vein slightly, nearly to small cross-vein. No costal spine.

Octyderomima polita, sp. n.
Length of body 8.5 mm., of wing 6.5 mm.
One female, Lorenzo Marques, March 1, 1910 (C. W. Howard).
Black, silvery-white pollinose. Antennae blackish, frontalia dark brown. Palpi appearing black, but in reality deep russet, with many short black bristly hairs. Head all