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NOTE ON *ACLETOXENUS SYRPHOIDES*,

FRAUENFELD.

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(PLATE I.)

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The genus *Acletoxenus* belongs to the subfamily *Drosophilinae* (as defined by Schiner) of the Acalyprate *Muscidae*, and because of the absence of the nervure separating the second basal from the discal cell, and its bare arista, it approaches *Aulacigaster* and *Gitona*.\*

In *Aulacigaster*, however, the middle cross-vein is considerably nearer the base of the wing, being opposite a point in the costa about midway between the humeral cross-vein and the end of the subcostal (first longitudinal) vein, and the head is differently shaped with a produced mouth-edge and only two pairs of fronto-orbital bristles; *A. rufitarsis* has two pairs of the outer dorsal row of bristles on the thorax, the front pair being about halfway down, no presutural bristle and only one sternopleural bristle. The absence of ocellar bristles and the continuation of the costa to the end of the discal (fourth longitudinal) vein, are characters common to both *Aulacigaster* and *Acletoxenus*.

In *Gitona* the middle cross-vein is opposite the end of the subcostal vein, and only separated from the outer cross-vein by a little more than the length of that cross-vein; it has strongly developed ocellar bristles and rather smaller eyes and consequently larger jaws.

*ACLETOXENUS SYRPHOIDES*, Frauent., Verh. z.-b. Ges. Wien (1868),  
152, 897.

♂ ♀. Head in profile semicircular, eyes occupying almost the entire side of

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\* It should be noticed that in Schiner's table on page xiii of his "Fauna Austriaca Diptera. II," the position of the words "488. Gatt. *Aulacigaster*. 209" and "492. Gatt. *Gitona*. 274" should be reversed [v. Frauent. Verh. z.-b. Wien, xviii (1868) 151, note at the bottom of page].

the head, leaving practically no jowls; antennæ placed below the middle of the head. Face and frons of almost equal width and less than one-third the width of the head, face without the conspicuous keel of many *Drosophilinæ*. Face, frons and first two joints of the antennæ whitish, slightly tinged with yellow, third antennal joint and proboscis a rich dull yellow, clypeus and palpi blackish. Three pairs of fronto-orbital bristles, the two upper pairs pointing backwards, the lower pair forwards; two pairs of vertical bristles, inner pair pointing backwards and parallel, outer pair pointing backwards and outwards; postvertical pair small, decussate, immediately behind the ocellar triangle; one pair of small vibrissæ; ocellar bristles absent.

*Thorax* shining black, with a clothing of short black hairs entirely confined to the black part of the disc; a patch extending from the humerus to the root of the wing and including the presutural bristle is of the colour of the frons, while the postalar callus and the large broad scutellum are a bright citron-yellow; pleuræ rather paler coloured than the scutellum; while the sternopleura, a round spot on pteropleura in front of, and a larger spot just below, the hypopleural spiracle, are black. There are one humeral, two posthumeral, one presutural, one supra-alar, one postalar, and four prescutellar bristles, which latter apparently represent the last of the inner and outer rows of dorsal bristles; there is also a second small bristle on the postalar callus near the basal corner of the scutellum, while there are four scutellar and two nearly equally strong sternopleural bristles.

*Abdomen* of the male as figured, but in the female the dark markings are not so extended, as the second segment has only a small dark spot in the middle, and one at each extreme side, while the third segment has only a central dark spot with faint indications of the rest of the band; and the dark markings on the fourth and fifth segments are not so extensive.

*Legs* of the same colour as the frons, and without pre-apical or any other bristles; the first joint of every tarsus rather longer than the other four joints together.

*Wings* as figured, quite clear. Mediastinal vein rudimentary, no nervure separating the second basal from the discal cell, anal cell small but obviously present. *Halteres* pale yellowish.

Frauenfeld bred this species from larvæ found among *Aleurodes phillyreæ*, Hal., on *Cratægus*; while he also caught it on evergreen *Viburnum* trees infested with *Aleurodes Jelineki*, v. Frf. Mr. F. Jenkinson has recorded on p. 300 of this Magazine for last year his capture of this species at Cambringe.

#### SYNONYMICAL NOTE.

Meigen, in 1830, described an *Agromyza ornata*, his short description answering very well to our insect, and if he overlooked the presence of the small nervure separating the second basal from the discal cell, it might well be our species; but Prof. Brauer, has informed me that Schiner recognised Meigen's *Agromyza ornata*, there being a specimen so named by him in the Coll. Musei Vindobon., and that specimen is not *Acletoxenus syrphoides*.

Walker professed to recognise *A. ornata*, Mg., but his description can hardly be taken to refer to our insect, as he says:—"costal vein ending at the tip of the wing: præbrachial (discal) ending on the hind border at some distance from the tip," whereas in *A. syrphoides* the costa is continued to the end of the discal vein; also in his synoptical table he says:—"Discal transverse vein parted by very little more than its length from the præbrachial transverse, and by nearly twice its length from the border," which again does not suit our insect. In spite of this, and possibly because Walker gave his species as preying on *Aleurodes phillyreæ*, Haliday in writing to Frauenfeld, said:—"The species described by Walker appears identical with *Acletoxenus syrphoides*" (v. Frauenfeld, Verh. z.-b. Wien, xviii, 898), and caused Frauenfeld to give *A. ornata*, Wlk. (*nec* Mg.), as a synonym of his *Acletoxenus syrphoides*; though in the descriptions there seems to be far more evidence against Walker's *ornata* being a synonym than there is against Meigen's *ornata*. Apparently it was only through this synonymy that the name *A. syrphoides* was recorded in our British List.

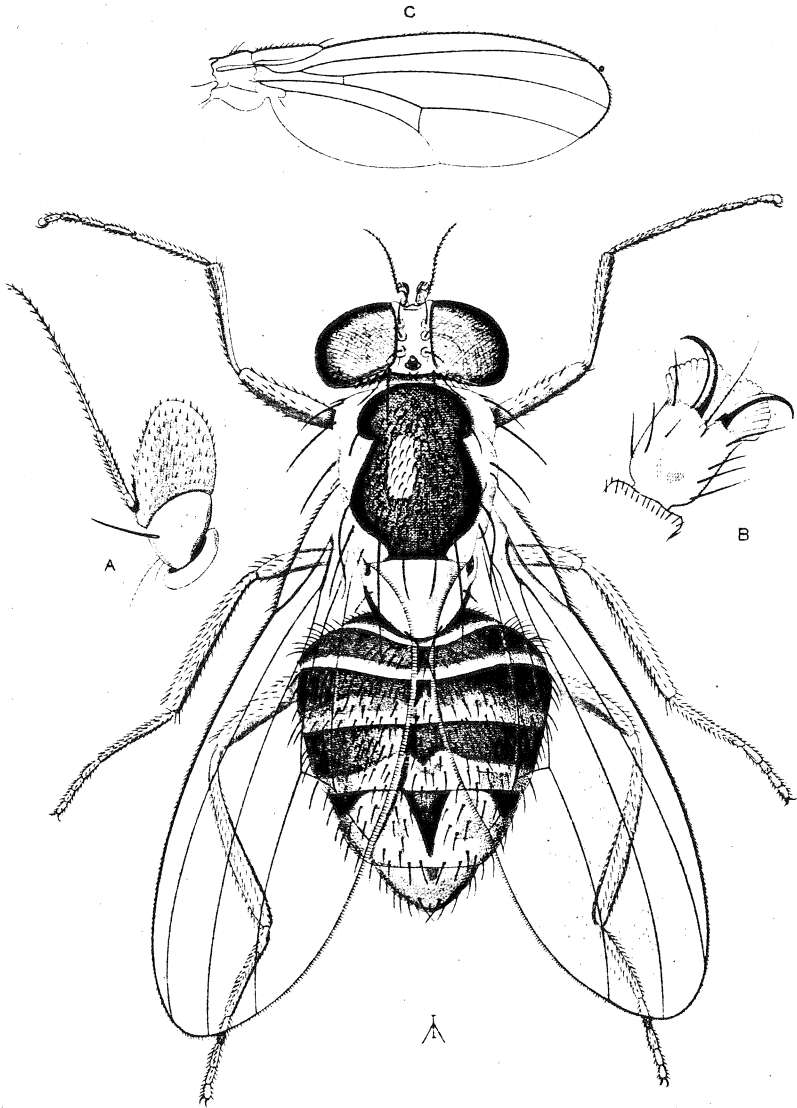
Loew, in 1864, described a species as *Gitona formosa*, and his description applies wonderfully well to our insect; but he says the bristles on the frons are entirely as in *G. distigma*, whereas in *A. syrphoides* the ocellar bristles are absent, and he also says the venation is exactly the same as in *G. distigma*, whereas in *A. syrphoides* there are marked differences (v. Frauenfeld's figures, Verh. z.-b. Ges. Wien, xviii, 899).

Under these circumstances, only an examination of the original type specimens, or the capture of specimens answering more accurately to the descriptions, will settle the synonymy of this species; as a help to future students I may add that Prof. Brauer has failed to find the type of Meigen's *A. ornata* in the Winthem Collection at Vienna, so it may be in Paris; Mr. E. E. Austen cannot find Walker's specimens of *A. ornata* at the British Museum; Dr. Carpenter writes from the Science and Art Museum, Dublin: "after a good look at the Haliday *Drosophilines*, I have failed to find anything approaching your figure;" while Loew's type of *G. formosa* is probably in his collection at Berlin, but I have not been able to ascertain any particulars about it.

## EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

	<i>Acletoxenus syrphoides</i> , Frauenf., ♂.		
A.	"	"	antenna from inner side.
B.	"	"	last joint of tarsus.
C.	"	"	wing.

Sussex Lodge, Newmarket:  
December, 1901.



*Acletoxenus Syrphoides.*

Edwin Wilson, Cambridge.