

A SPECIMEN OF *HOPLOPSYLLUS ANOMALUS* (BAKER)
LACKING A PRONOTAL CTENIDIUM (SIPHONAPTERA)HAROLD E. STARK¹

An anomalous male specimen of *Hoplopsyllus anomalus* (Baker, 1904) recently was observed while identifying fleas collected by plague survey units of the Western CDC Laboratory.

The pronotal ctenidium, normally present in this species, is entirely lacking and the pronotum is much reduced. The flea appears normal in every other respect and the forelegs appear to be functional. Therefore, it appears doubtful that this lack of a pronotal ctenidium resulted from a mechanical injury in larval life or during mounting. This leaves pathological or embryonic malformation as possible explanations. This anomaly in Siphonaptera is presented merely as a curiosity (Fig. 1).

This specimen of *H. anomalus* was collected 10 mi. E. of Beaver, 7,000 ft., Beaver Co., Utah, by H. C. Owen, May 6, 1949, host: *Citellus variegatus grammurus* (Say).

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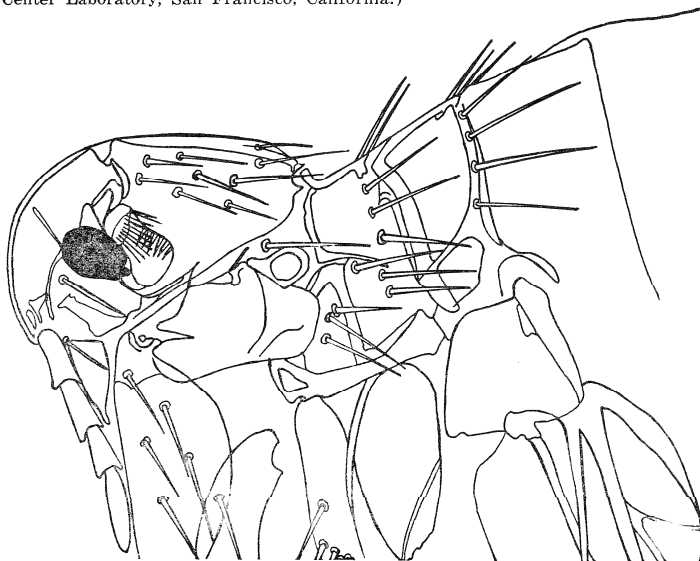


Fig. 1. *Hoplopsyllus anomalus* lacking ctenidial comb.

DETTOPSOMYIA AND PTILOMYIA: TWO GENERA
NEW TO THE UNITED STATES

(Diptera: Drosophilidae; Ephydriidae)

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While making general collections of acalyptrate Diptera in California and Texas in 1949-50, representatives of two genera not previously reported from this country were found. One of these seems to be relatively widespread and has probably been overlooked or not recognized by other collectors, while the other is more likely a recent introduction into this country from Australia.

✓ DETTOPSOMYIA Lamb (Drosophilidae)

This genus, belonging to the Mycodrosophila-assemblage of genera, was described by Lamb (1914) for his new species *formosa* from the Seychelles. Malloch (1924) described *Drosophila nigrovittata* from Australia, remarking that the species appeared to belong to *Spuriostyloptera* Duda, an oriental genus. Malloch's description clearly shows, however, that *nigrovittata* is not referable to that genus but belongs to *Dettopsomyia*.

In October, 1949, the writer observed larvae and puparia in a rotting, bleeding area of about 20 sq. in. on a large banana plant on the grounds of the Pottinger Hospital in Monrovia, California. Adults were reared and, a short time later, a large number of adults were captured around this banana clump. These specimens matched the description of *D. nigrovittata* in every detail. A permanent colony seems to have become established in this area, since as late as March, 1950, it was a simple matter to collect additional specimens. A single specimen was also taken by sweeping along the Rio Hondo near Montebello, California. Attempts were made to establish a living culture of this species using the usual *Drosophila* culture media, but the stock was lost after about four generations.

It seems logical to assume that *Dettopsomyia nigrovittata* is a rather recent introduction since the area has in past years been well collected by Drs. A. L. Melander and A. H. Sturtevant, both specialists on Diptera. The finding of this Australian species in

California is especially interesting in view of Malloch's (1938) report of *Dettopsomyia formosa* being found in Hawaii in 1936.

In Curran's (1934) key to genera of North American Diptera, this genus will key to couplet 12 of the key to Drosophilidae, where it differs from the remaining genera by the following combination of characters:

Small species with a complex pattern of longitudinal stripes on the mesonotum; costal break exceptionally deep, the lobe well-developed, blackened, and bearing two strong bristles; 2nd and 3rd costal sections nearly equal (costal index about 1.0)....*Dettopsomyia*

PTILOMYIA Coquillett (Ephydridae)

This genus, a member of the Psilopinae, was erected by Coquillett (1900) for his new species *enigma* from Porto Rico. No other species appear to have been described.

More than 70 individuals which appear to be identical with *Ptilomyia enigma* have been taken by sweeping along a small stream in Austin, Texas, in June, 1950. In view of its minute size (about 1 mm.) and its apparent non-rarity, it seems very probable that it has been collected by others but not identified or reported.

A single specimen of an undescribed species belonging to this genus was taken by the writer near Kernville, California, in April, 1950. This specimen, which is slightly larger than the *enigma* from Texas, also differs in having the tarsi about as dark as the rest of the legs and in having distinct dark clouds over the posterior crossveins. It does not seem desirable to describe and name this species until further material becomes available.

The genus *Ptilomyia* keys correctly in Curran (*op. cit.*). In Cresson's (1942) synopsis of North American Ephydridae, it keys to *Atissiella* Cresson from which it can be separated as follows:

- Arista pectinate, without ventral branches; acrostichals in 2-6 rows, only the prescutellar pair enlarged.....*Atissiella*
- Arista plumose, with both dorsal and ventral branches; acrostichals in 2 sparse rows, several pairs noticeably enlarged..*Ptilomyia*

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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF METATAENIA

(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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Metataenia clotildae refulgens Helfer, *new subspecies*

Holotype, adult female. Length 25.5 mm., with 8.5 mm., elongate parallel, widest near base of elytra; head, pronotum, and elytra brilliant red with golden reflections, pronotum with a pair of yellow foveae laterally near the base, each elytron with five yellow or golden colored depressions, one medial at the base, two at the first third, one medial the other lateral, one fasciaform and medial at about the second third, and one near the suture at the apical fifth, these depressions becoming progressively shallower toward the apices which are metallic blue green; body golden green beneath. *Head* punctate; strongly excavated between the eyes and with a deep longitudinal groove medially in the bottom of the excavation; a strong carina forming the anterior boundary of this excavation, separating it from the strongly notched clypeus; eyes large, only slightly convergent posteriorly, rather strongly convex and noticeably protuberant, brown; jaws black near the tips but mostly metallic green and strongly punctate; antennae 11-segmented, reaching about to the hind angles of the pronotum, the first segment long, testaceous proximally, metallic green distally, second segment very short, third three times as long as second and equal in length to fourth, succeeding segments more thickly punctate, becoming progressively shorter and