A NEW INDIAN DROSOPHILID FLY.

By E. Brunetti.

Drosophila prashadi, sp. nov.

The present species appears allied to *D. ananassae* Dol. and *D. hirticornis* de Meij.

It differs from *hirticornis* by the arista generally possessing only three long bristly hairs on the upper side (sometimes four), and only one on the underside, this latter placed a little beyond the middle. The tip of the 3rd antennal joint does not nearly reach the mouth opening; the 3rd and 4th longitudinal veins are quite parallel; the last segment of the 5th vein (de Meijere's 4th) is about equal to the distance between the cross-veins (and not over $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long). Dr. deMeijere evidently regards the 1st longitudinal vein as present and the 2nd as absent whereas it seems to me that the vein present is the 2nd longitudinal, since the anterior cross-vein must separate the 3rd and 4th veins. This will account for the difference in the readings.

From *ananassae* the present species differs mainly by the transverse black bands on the hind margins of the abdominal segments, varying in width from occupying nearly half the segment to their total absence. Doleschall's species has the abdomen mainly rather dark, brownish to blackish brown, so the two forms cannot be conspecific. Doleschall's description is valueless, as noted by Osten Sacken, but deMeijere redescribes the species from a large number of specimens from Java, collected on cut fruit, sent by Jacobson and apparently obtained from (or possibly named by) Doleschall himself.

The following notes on the present species may be useful. 3rd antennal joint greyish, with short pubescence, bearing several short bristles of varying length: arista dark, cylindrical, not pointed at tip; the black bristly hairs it bears may number 2 (possibly one missing), 3 or 4, in the latter case the 3rd and 4th are generally smaller and rather unsymmetrically placed. The number does not seem constant as two specimens have five bristly hairs above and three below, all long and distinct. Whole body pale brownish yellow, the hind margins of the abdominal segments more or less narrowly black, the colour sometimes extending to the middle of the segment, and being sometimes hardly visible or quite absent. These bands are most conspicuous in the ♂. Chaetotaxy: one pair ocellar bristles directed forwards, one pair of nearly erect vertical ones just behind ocellar triangle, three distinct bristles near upper corner of eye, the innermost and outermost converging, the middle one strongly divergent; the outermost is obviously post vertical, the other two vertical, though the innermost might possibly be considered as the 1st fronto-orbital. 2 fronto-orbital (apart from the one just mentioned) placed on upper part of frons, and an additional bristle alongside the lower one, also some minute bristly hairs on lower part of cheeks towards sides. 3 distinct oral bristles on each side of

mouth opening, with 3 or 4 others in addition to smaller ones on lower part of cheeks. Thorax with 2 dorso-central on hinder part ; 2 humeral, 1 post humeral, 1 post sutural, 1 supra alar and 2 others which appear to be notopleural. Scutellum with a basal pair, placed on upper corners and the usual apical pair.

Type.—Number $\frac{5710}{H.2}$ in the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta.

[The above description is based on a large series of specimens bred in the laboratories of the Zoological Survey of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta, in November 1920. The flies were made to lay eggs on two bananas left exposed in a petri-dish. This was later covered by a bell-jar. In about a fortnight the flies began to appear in fair numbers and a few days later the whole jar was absolutely full of them. The importance of this fly lies in the fact that it is liable to be confused with the Phorid fly *Aphiochaeta xanthina*, Speiser (described as *A. ferruginea* by Brunetti), which also breeds on bananas and causes myiasis in man. *B. Prashad.*]