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77
-131

WALLACE ON DIPTERA OF ARU ISLANDS.

400 species of plants, and numerous fine fruits, which he says "will rejoice Sir William Hooker's heart."

Dr. Baikié's postscript, however, mentions that his vessel had been wrecked about twelve miles above Lagos, and that she sunk in a few minutes after she struck. He does not say what was the fate of his collections, but states that all the party had fever from fatigue and sleeping in swamps after the wreck.—J. R.

Catalogue of the Dipterous Insects collected in the Aru Islands
by Mr. A. R. WALLACE, with Descriptions of New Species.
By FRANCIS WALKER.

ARU ISLAND.

Fam. MYCETOPHILIDÆ, *Haliday*.

Gen. SCIARA, *Meigen*.

Div. A. a., *Meig.* vi. 305.

1. SCIARA SELECTA, n. s. *Mas.* Nigra, cinereo-tomentosa, antennis sat validis, pedibus piccis, alis cinereis, venis costalibus crassis.

Male. Black, with cinereous tomentum; antennae rather stout; legs piceous; wings greyish; veins black; radial and cubital veins thick; radial vein extending to the fork of the subapical. Length of the body $1\frac{1}{4}$ line; of the wings 4 lines.

Fam. BIBIONIDÆ, *Haliday*.

Gen. PLECTA, *Hoffmansegg*.

2. Plecta dorsalis, *Walk.* See Vol. I. p. 5.

Fam. CULICIDÆ, *Haliday*.

3. CULEX SCUTELLARIS, n. s. *Mas.* Nigro-fuscus, capite thoraceque argenteo trivittatis, scutello rufescente; abdominis segmentis argenteo fasciatis, genubus et tarsorum posticorum fasciis niveis; alis subcinereis, venis nigris ciliatis.

Male. Blackish brown. Head and thorax with three silvery stripes, the middle one very distinct; scutellum reddish; pectus with silvery gloss; abdomen with silvery bands, which are narrow above, broad beneath; femora pale towards the base; knees snow-white; hind tarsi with 5 broad snow-white bands; middle tarsi with the first and second joints white at the base; wings slightly greyish; veins black, fringed. Length of the body 3 lines; of the wings 5 lines.

stripe; abdomen dull testaceous; legs whitish; tibiae and tarsi at the tips and fore femora black; wings greyish; veins black, discal transverse vein oblique, parted by more than its length from the border, and by full twice its length from the præbrachial transverse; halteres whitish. Length of the body 2 lines; of the wings 3 lines.

161. *OSCINIS NOCTILUX*, n. s. *Mas.* Atra; capite pallide flavo subtus albo; antennis luteis, arista nuda; scutello, maculis duabus pectoralibus abdominisque apice albis; tibiis tarsisque intermedii testaceis; alis nigricantibus postice cinereis, halteribus niveis.

Male. Black. Head pale yellow, black hindward, white beneath; antennæ pale luteous, third joint very short, arista bare; scutellum white; pectus with a white spot on each side; abdomen white at the tip; middle legs with testaceous tibiae and tarsi; hind wings blackish, cinereous hindward; halteres snow-white. Length of the body $\frac{7}{8}$ line; of the wings $1\frac{1}{2}$ line.

Subfam. *CEOMYZIDÆ*, *Fallen.*

Gen. *DROSOPHILA*, *Fallen.*

- Lausannidæ*
Sepronomioidæ
(Stål, 1907
: 573)
162. *DROSOPHILA? FINIGUTTA*, n. s. *Mas.* Fulva; capite antice testaceo, antennis testaceis, articulo tertio conico; abdomine maculis quatuor apicalibus nigris, tarsis nigris; alis cinereis venis nigris.

Male. Tawny. Head testaceous in front; antennæ testaceous, third joint conical; abdomen with two black spots on each side at the tip; legs testaceous; tarsi black; wings grey; veins black, discal transverse vein straight, parted by full half its length from the border and by full twice its length from the præbrachial transverse; halteres testaceous. Length of the body $1\frac{1}{2}$ line; of the wings 3 lines.

- Lausannidæ*
Sepronomioidæ
(Stål, 1907
: 573)
163. *DROSOPHILA? MELANOSPILA*. *Fem.* Testacea; antennarum articulo tertio conico, arista plumosa; thoracis disco abdominisque guttis duabus apicalibus atris; tarsis piceis; alis subcinereis.

Female. Testaceous. Vertex luteous; third joint of the antennæ conical; arista plumose; disk of the thorax and a dot on each side of the tip of the abdomen deep black; tarsi piceous; wings slightly greyish; veins black, discal transverse vein straight, parted by about half its length from the border and by twice its length from the præbrachial transverse. Length of the body 1 line; of the wings 2 lines.

- = *D. ananassæ*
(de Meijere)
164. *DROSOPHILA? IMPARATA*. *Fem.* Pallide testacea; pedibus pallidioribus; alis subcinereis, venis pallidis.

Female. Pale testaceous, with a few bristles. Legs paler than the body; wings slightly greyish; veins pale, discal transverse vein straight, parted by about twice its length from the border and by more than twice its length from the præbrachial transverse. Length of the body $\frac{7}{8}$ line; of the wings $1\frac{1}{2}$ line.

Subfam. HYDROMYZIDÆ, *Haliday*.Gen. EPHYDRA, *Fallen*.

165. EPHYDRA? TACITURNA, n. s. *Fem.* Atra, nitens, antennis nigris, arista plumosa, abdomine nigro-cupreo, pedibus nigro-piceis, alis nigricantibus, venis nigris.

Female. Deep black, shining. Antennæ black, third joint linear, rather long, arista plumose; legs blackish-piceous; wings blackish; veins black, discal transverse vein straight, parted by a little more than its length from the border. Length of the body $1\frac{1}{2}$ line; of the wings $2\frac{1}{4}$ lines.

Fam. PIORIDÆ, *Haliday*.

Gen. PALLURA, n. g.

Mas. Corpus latiusculum, pubescens. Os retractum. Oculi pubescentes. Antennæ brevissimæ; arista longissima. Scutellum magnum, conicum. Abdomen subellipticum, thorace non longius. Pedes latiusculi, pubescentes, non setosi. Alæ amplæ, venis æqualibus.

Male. Body rather broad, pubescent. Proboscis small, withdrawn; eyes pubescent; antennæ very short, arista very long; scutellum large, conical, very prominent, extending beyond the base of the abdomen; abdomen nearly elliptical, not longer than the thorax; legs rather broad, pubescent, without bristles; wings rather long and broad; veins of equal size, costal vein ending at rather before half the length of the wing, radial ending at somewhat in front of the tip of the wing, cubital ending at hardly in front of the tip, præbrachial ending at a little behind the tip, pabrachial ending on the hind border at half the length of the wing, discal transverse vein straight, parted by more than twice its length from the border and from the præbrachial transverse.

166. PALLURA INVARIA, *Mas.* Lutea, immaculata, alis cinereis basi luteis, apice nigricantibus, venis nigris robustis.

Male. Luteous, of one colour. Wings grey, luteous at the base, blackish towards the tips; veins black, robust. Length of the body 3 lines; of the wings 6 lines.

Fam. HIPPOBOSCIDÆ, *Leach*.Gen. ORNITHOMYIA, *Leach*.

167. Ornithomyia parva?, *Maeq. Hist. Nat. Dipt.* 11. 2. 279. 3.

is impossible to determine from the preparation whether the arches of the fourth and fifth vertebrae had been cut away in dissecting the parts, or whether they have shrivelled up in drying; but as the skeleton was very carefully prepared, and as these two arches are deficient (at least laterally) in the adult *Mysticetus*, I presume that the cartilaginous matrices were at least extremely delicate in the fœtus.

"I believe I have stated all the facts alluded to by this skeleton, which bear upon your questions. They appear to me to afford no support to the views to which they refer.

"Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) "JOHN GOODSTIR."

The conclusion I arrived at is this:—that the actual number of cervical vertebrae in the *Mysticetus* is, as in most other mammals, seven, and that, notwithstanding their earlier fusion, they are originally quite distinct.

Extract of a Letter from Dr. BAIKIE to Sir JOHN RICHARDSON, M.D., C.B., F.R. & L.S., dated 29th October, 1857, Rabba, on the Qworra.

[Read January 21st, 1858.]

"In natural history my collection is advancing, especially in skins and skeletons of birds. I am collecting skulls of all the domesticated animals, and skeletons of the sheep and goats. I have got a few fish, including a prettily-marked *Diodon* or *Tetraodon*, probably new, and a *Myletes* which I did not meet with formerly. The *Siluridae* are the most abundant fishes; and one species closely resembles the *Hyppophthalmus*, figured by Rüppell in his 'Fishes of the Nile and Red Sea.' I have not met with another *Polypterus*. I shall get a *Lepidosiren* in the river, and have heard of an electrical fish, I believe a *Malopteruris*, such as I formerly found. I enclose two scales of a fish which is said to grow to the length of 5 feet, but of which I have specimens half that size only,—also a sketch of a curious fish 2½ feet, which I put into spirits; it has neither ventral nor anal fins, a very peculiar caudal, and a slender head, while the dorsal extends along the whole back; eyes very small; teeth numerous and hard, but not sharp." He adds, in a postscript, that he had got the *Lepidosiren*. He had collected