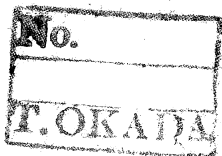


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No. 6. TWO DROSOPHILIDÆ FROM COIMBATORE

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TWO DROSOPHILIDÆ FROM COIMBATORE.

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AMONGST some Diptera sent me recently for identification I found the two which are described herein. Both are evidently of economic importance, one feeding on fruit and thus to some extent injurious, and the other feeding upon Aphides and consequently beneficial.

Genus *Gitonides*, Knab.

Generic characters. Cephalic chætotaxy: postverticals small; ocellars long, divergent; each orbit with three strong bristles below the vertical one, the upper one in line with posterior ocelli, the middle one a little closer to the lower one than to the upper and, like the latter, backwardly directed, the lower one forwardly directed and farther from base of antennæ than from the median bristle; entire frons with numerous short microscopic black setulæ; face slightly convex, not keeled; vibrissæ well developed; antennæ as in *Drosophila*, but the arista is bare; eyes large, bare. Thoracic chætotaxy: one short humeral; presutural intra-alar short; dorsocentrals two pairs, the anterior pair short and close to the larger pair; scutellars four, the disc bare, prescutellar acrostichals large; mesopleura bare; sternopleurals 1:1; other characters as in *Drosophila*. Wing venation as in *Amiota*, Læw, the discal and second basal cells separated by a cross-vein; first posterior cell not narrowed apically, costa indistinct beyond apex of third vein.

Genotype, the following species:—

Eudrosophila perspicax, Knab.

Male and female. Habitus and colouration similar to *Drosophila repleta*, Wollaston. Brownish testaceous, opaque, thorax with grayish pruinescence, frons and dorsum of thorax profusely mottled with dark brown dots, one at base of each hair and bristle, on the dorsum of thorax more or less

aggregated in the form of interrupted vittæ and irregular groups; disc of scutellum mottled with brown and a rather conspicuous dark brown spot at base of each bristle; a narrow brown vitta along upper margin and another along middle of pleura. Abdomen dark brown, apices of tergites testaceous. Legs testaceous. Wings hyaline.

Dorsum of thorax rather closely covered with short black setulose hairs. Abdomen ovate. Legs without abnormal armature, mid and hind tibiæ rather stout. Inner cross-vein slightly beyond middle of discal cell; first vein ending almost above middle of antepenultimate section of fourth vein; last section of fourth vein a little less than twice as long as penultimate section; distance from apex of first vein to apex of second nearly three times as great as preceding costal section.

Length, 3.5—4 mm.

Several specimens, "amongst plant lice (young ones of the Fulgorid, *Pundaluoya simplicia*) on *cholam* shoot," Coimbatore (Y. Ramachandra Rao). Also "on cotton mealy bug" (*Pseudococcus corymbatus*, Green), Coimbatore, 13th March, 1920 (T. V. Ramakrishna Ayyar).

Originally described from Hawaii and occurs also in the Philippines. Sturtevant in his paper on the North American Drosophilidæ sunk this genus as a synonym of *Gitona* but in that genus the discal and second basal cells are not separated by a cross-vein, a fact noted by him, while the reverse is here the case.

Pinned with the male there is a puparium, but not the one from which the specimen emerged, as the puparium contains the undisclosed imago. This puparium is subopaque reddish brown in colour, 6 mm. in length and almost 2 mm. in width, with the ventral surface slightly flattened, the sides bulging a little, and the upper surface convex. The dorsal surface has the anterior fourth obliquely sloped to anterior margin as in most Drosophilidæ and the posterior extremity is not much attenuated, differing in this respect from the forms which live in liquids and semi-liquid matter. Anterior spiracular organs short, with about 13 short pale branches arranged fanwise at apices; posterior spiracular trunks contiguous at bases, consisting of two upwardly diverging stalks which taper apically, are furnished with three small spiracular slits at tips, and are about twice as long as their basal diameter. Body covered with microscopic points, the segments moderately well defined.

Drosophila biarmipes, sp. n.

Y. Ramachandra Rao

Male and female. Testaceous yellow, thorax and abdomen more or less shining. Head and thorax unicolourous. Abdomen with a dark border to

each tergite, in male with the apical two tergites largely or entirely dark brown. Legs yellow. Wings hyaline, in the male with a faint darker tinge at apices of second vein. Halteres yellow.

The male has the orbital bristles and ocellar bristles very small, the anterior proclinate orbitals being particularly minute, while in the female only the anterior reclinate bristle is minute, the others being well developed; arista with 5 rays above and two below; facial carina large, rather broad and flat on most of its length; cheek linear; one or two strong setulæ below vibrissa; eyes hairy. Thorax with 8 series of intradorsocentral setulæ; prescutellar acrostichals indistinguishable; sternopleurals 1:1. Hypopygium of male more prominent than usual in the genus. Fore tarsus of male with two combs of short black bristles on basal segment on its inner surface, one at middle and the other at apex; fore tarsus of female normal. Section of costa in front of apex of second vein in male a little over twice as long as the one behind it, in female fully 2.5 times as long; penultimate section of fourth vein in male a little over twice as long as ultimate, in female over 2.5 as long as ultimate; outer cross-vein at about 1.5 its own length from apex of fifth vein in male, about twice its own length in female.

Length, 2-2.5 mm.

Type, male, and allotype, Coimbatore, 30th August 1920. Paratype male and female, same locality, 24th August 1920. Reared from *Nim* (*Melia azadirachta*) fruit (Ballard).