10. Entomophagous and other Bizarre Drosophilidae

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I. Introduction

There can be little doubt that the Drosophilidae are, in the main, adapted to feed and breed on decaying and fermenting vegetable matter, themselves substrates for the growth of bacteria, yeasts and other fungi. Yet many species have become specialized to quite different resources. The leaf mining *Scaptomyza* and the species breeding in living flowers are well known. Those species whose lives have become intimately bound with those of other insects and animals are less well known and have, in the past, been comparatively ignored by students of drosophilid biology. This review is devoted to these species.

This review, will perforce, be somewhat anecdotal in its style. This is because the serious scientific study of most, though not all, of the species to be discussed has hardly begun. This is not to under-rate the contributions of the authors upon whom I rely; the problems stem from the facts that many of the studies of the more bizarre drosophilids have been done incidental to other work and, often, at times or under conditions not conducive to proper study. Moreover many of the bizarre species are difficult, or have so far proved to be impossible, to culture in the laboratory.

The literature on the bizarre drosophilids is exceptionally scattered

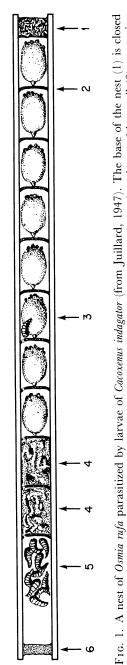
through both professional and amateur journals and my task would have been virtually impossible without access to E. B. Basden's unrivalled collection of offprints. Since my acquaintance with most of the material to be reviewed is second-hand many of the problems raised will be treated at rather a superficial level. I apologize for this, but I hope that the advantage of having, for the first time, a reasonably comprehensive review of bizarre drosophilids will outweigh this disadvantage and, I hope, stimulate further research.

II. Taxonomic Treatment

A. THE GENUS LISSOCEPHALA

Throckmorton (1975) considers that the tropical genus Lissocephala is the most primitive of the drosophilids (see Tsacas and Lachaise, 1979 for discussion). Species of the genus are known from the Australian, Oriental and Afro-Tropical regions and, until recently, nothing was known of their biology. Now, however, it is quite clear that the Afro-Tropical radiation of Lissocephala has occurred through a very close, and fascinating, association of the flies and various species of fig (Ficus) (see Lachaise, 1977; Tsacas and Lachaise, 1979). The only reason for including this genus in this review is the discovery, by Carson and Wheeler (1973; see also Carson, 1974) of a species of Lissocephala associated with land crabs on the Indian Ocean island of Christmas Island. The breeding-site of this species, L. powelli, recalls that of D. carcinophila and D. endobranchia from the Caribbean (see Section II, C, 2, ii).

Two species of land crab are, on Christmas Island, the main hosts of L. powelli—Gecaroidea humei (Wood—Mason) and Birgus latro L. The incidence of infection may be very high, reaching 100%, for example, in the case of B. latro. The female fly lays her eggs at the base of the second antennal segment and along the edge of the crab's carapace, above the mouth parts. The association of fly and crab is clearly one of commensalism. On hatching the larvae are to be found "in the hairs at the apical end of the third maxillipeds ... this area is continually saturated by fluid excreted from the green gland" (Carson and Wheeler, loc cit). The larvae presumably feed upon micro-organisms which themselves grow in a substrate provided by the crab's excreta. On completion of their larval development the animals leave their hosts and pupariate in the sand.



the cells. In the cell marked (3) a single Cacoxenus larva has transversed backwards from the more distal cells by breaking through the partitions as it did so. The cells marked (4) are full of Cacoxenus larvae and their excrement. Ten larvae are found with a mud plug. Eight cells are occupied by pupal Osmia, each attached by its anterior end to the partition wall (2) separating (5) in the vestibule behind the plug (6) that closes the end of the nest.

B. The Subfamily Steganinae

1. The genus Acletoxenus

This small genus of elegant flies, established in 1864 by Loew, is allied to *Cacoxenus* and *Gitona*. Four species have been described. One, *A. formosus*, is known from Europe, Israel (Basden, 1966), the Canary Islands (Duda, 1935) and Australia (presumably introduced, Bock, 1981), and three (*A. indicus*, *A. meijerei* and *A. quadristriatus*) are from the Oriental region. There is every reason to believe that further species are to be found in South East Asia and Australasia: indeed Clausen and Berry (1932) mention a further species from Java. in the Australian National Insect Collection.

A. formosus is a very striking fly, with a shiny jet black dorsum, pale yellow pleura and a bright yellow scutellum (see Collin, 1902, for a coloured plate and Jenkinson's, 1901, account of this specimen's capture at his home in Cambridge). Our knowledge of the biology of Acletoxenus comes from scattered accounts of A. formosus in the European literature, from the paper on A. indicus by Clausen and Berry (1932) and from that refuge of the desperate, museum labels.

TABLE I. The known associations of Acletoxenus species and their Aleurodidae prey

Species	Prey	Locality Europe (Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy) ¹		
A. formosus	Siphoninus philyreae (Haliday)			
	S. immaculatus (Haeger) Aeurotrachelus jelinekii	Great Britain ²		
	(von Frauenfeld)	Germany ³		
	Aleyrodes proletella (L.)	Italy ⁴		
A. indicus	Aleurocanthus woglumi (Ashby)	Java, ?Malaysia, ?Sri Lanka⁵		
	A. citriperdus (Quaintance and Baker) Java ⁵			
	Aleurodes sp.	India ⁶		
A. quadristriatus	Aleurodicus destructor (Mackie)	Australia (Thursday Is.)7		
Acletoxenus sp.	A. woglumi (Ashby)	Sumatra ⁵		
	A. citriperdus (Quaintance and Baker)	Sumatra ⁵		

References: 1. Walker (1853), von Frauenfeld (1867, 1868), Gautier (1922), Golfari (1937), Mentzelos (1967), Pelov and Trenchev (1973). 2. Varley, in Mound and Halsey (1978). 3. von Frauenfeld (1868). 4. Silvestri (1934). 5. Clausen and Berry (1932). 6. Malloch (1929). 7. Duda (1936).

The larval stages of *Acletoxenus* predate Aleurodidae. The known associations of host and predator are listed in Table I. The female fly deposits her eggs singly upon leaves infested with white-fly, adjacent to late-stage white-larvae or pupae, according to Clausen and Berry (1932). The eggs are apparently glued to the leaf (see Riley and Forgash, 1967, for an account of the egg glue of *D. melanogaster*). The first stage of larvae are white (*A. indicus*, Clausen and Berry, 1932) or orange (*A. formosus*, G. Varley, *in litt.*) but turn green by the third instar. In the case of *A. formosus*, at least, this pigment is in the fat body, the cuticle remaining white and translucent (M. Ashburner, unpublished observations). Neither the nature, nor origin, of the pigment is known, though it is reasonable to conclude that it is derived from the plants on which the white-fly are feeding.

The larvae of both A. indicus and A. formosus are covered with a mucilagenous slime (von Frauenfeld, 1867; Clausen and Berry, 1932; and other authors). It is not known whether this slime is derived from the larva's salivary glands or from its dermal glands. However, as a consequence of this stickiness the larvae collects debris, including eggshells of their white-fly prey.

The larvae are very sluggish, probably never leaving the leaf upon which they started life (Clausen and Berry, 1932). A. formosus larvae, predating the white-fly Siphoninus immaculatus (Haeger) on the underside of old leaves of Hedera helix L. in Oxford, England, make tracks through the sooty-moulds (see Section III) that grow on the infested leaves (G. Varley, in litt.).

Puparium formation occurs on the leaf, the puparium being firmly glued to its substrate. In Europe the life cycle of *A. formosus* has been found to be between 12 (von Frauenfeld, 1867) and 27 (Pelov and Trenchev, 1973) days.

In Europe A. formosus is an important predator of Siphoninus phillyreae (Haliday), itself a pest of, for example, the pear (Pyrus communis L.) (see Gautier, 1922; Silvestri, 1934; Golfari, 1937; Mentzelos, 1967; Pelov and Trenchev, 1973). Pelov and Trenchev (1973) estimate that each Acletoxenus larva consumes some 30 to 40 white-fly puparia in its life and some attempt, though futile, has been made to use A. formosus for the biological control of white-fly (Vayssiere, 1953). Indeed Clausen and Berry (1932) twice imported A. indicus into Cuba, from South East Asia, for the control of Aleurocanthus woglumi Ashby, a pest of Citrus, but without lasting effect. The reasons for the failure of Acletoxenus to act as agents for white-fly control are not clear, though extensive parasitism by Hymenoptera (Clausen and Berry, 1932; Mentzelos, 1967; Pelov and Trenchev, 1973) may have been a factor.

2. The genera Gitona and Cacoxenus

It is convenient to consider these related genera together. The classification of *Gitona*, *Cacoxenus* and of the genera *Paracacoxenus* and *Gitonides* (now subgenera of *Cacoxenus*) has recently been revised by Tsacas and Chenon (1976; see also McAlpine 1968).

The ten described species of the genus *Gitona* are to be found in the Palaearctic and Afro-Tropical regions. Their biology is very poorly known and the only justification for their inclusion here is the suspicion that some species may be predacious.

The single European species of Gitona, G. distigma, is frequently quoted as an example of an aphidophagous species. The evidence for this statement is, to say the least, slender, and the manner in which it has become accepted into the literature an object lesson. Loew (1847) reared adult G. distigma from the flower heads of the Composite Sonchus arvensis L., the larvae pupating within the flower heads. Later Schiner (1864) also reared this species from Sonchus and from the flower heads of another composite, Onopordon acanthium L., and L. Tsacas (in litt.) informs me that this fly has been reared from Sonchus oleraceus L. in France. As far as I am aware these are the only primary accounts of the biology of G. distigma, all others (Scholtz, 1849; Kaltenbach, 1874; Brauer, 1883; Townsend, 1893; Knab, 1914; Seguy, 1933a, 1934, 1951; Duda, 1935) being derivative. It is to Knab (1914) that we owe the suggestion that the larvae are aphidophagous for, after quoting Loew (1847), he writes "As plant lice are known to occur in large numbers on the upper part of this plant [i.e. Sonchus] (vide Kaltenbach, p. 397) there is every reason to believe that the larvae of Gitona prey upon these" (Knab 1914:165). Kaltenbach (1874) lists three species of aphid and one psyllid from Sonchus arvensis. Were Sonchus uniquely infected by "plant lice" then there would be some grounds for taking this speculation more seriously.

Another species of Gitona, G. gossypii was described by Seguy (1933b) from the damaged head capsules of the cotton plant, Gossypium. Presumably on the basis of Knab's speculation concerning the larval habits of G. distigma, Seguy (1951) writes of the larvae of G. gossypii, that "se development probablement aux depends d'une autre larvae d'insecte saprophage" but here again, I can discover no evidence that this is so.

The known North American species of *Gitona* are probably not predators: two, *G. americana* and *G. bivisualis*, have been reared on standard *Drosophila* medium, and *G. americana* and a third species, *G. sonotia*, are known to feed on decaying vegetable matter from cacti

(Wheeler, 1952 and *in litt*.). Furthermore two Afro-Tropical species, *G. pauliana* and *G.* sp. are known to be leaf miners as larvae (Seguy, 1951; Tsacas and Teshone, personal communication).

Two species described as *Gitona*, that is *G. brasiliensis* and *G. fluminensis*, do have larvae that predate Homoptera: however it is very likely that these are not *Gitona* at all, but *Rhinoleucophenga*, and I will deal with them under that genus.

The genus Cacoxenus assuredly includes predatory species. Two, previously described in the separate genus Gitonides, predate Homoptera. These are C. (Gitonides) frontalis, found but once predating Aspidoproctus bouvieri Vayssiere (Margarotidae) in Zaire (Collart, 1935)

TABLE II. Insects known to be predated by *Cacoxenus (Gitonides) perspicax*. All are Homoptera, Pseudococcidae, with the exception of *Peregrinus* which is Homoptera, Delphacidae.

Prey	Distribution
Brevannia rehi (Lindiger)	India (7, 8)
Chorizococcus rostellum (Hoke)	Hawaii (16)
Dysmicoccus boninsis (Kuwana)	Hawaii (1), Mauritius (2)
D. brevipes (Cockerell)	Hawaii (1), Mauritius (21)
Gigantococcus maximus (Newstead)	Nigeria (19)
Laminicoccus pandani (Cockerell)	Hawaii (1), Zaire (20)
Nipaecoccus viridis (Newstead)	India (4), Hawaii (1)
N. filementosus (Cockerell)	Hawaii (5)
Palmicultor palmarum (Ehrhorn)	Hawaii (1)
Phenacoccus saccharifolii (Green)	India (6)
Planococcus citri (Risso)	Comores (22)
Pseudococcus sp.	Hawaii (3), Philippines (3)
P. longispinus (Targ.)	Hawaii (1)
Saccharicoccus sacchari (Cockerell)	Hawaii (1), Mauritius (2, 9)
,	Reunion (9), Somalia (10),
	Sri Lanka (11), India (12),
	Papua New Guinea (13),
	Philippines (14, 15)
Peregrinus maidis (Ashmead)	India (17)
"Mealy aphis"	Australia (4)
undetermined	Formosa (18)

References: 1. Hardy (1965). 2. Box (1953). 3. Knab (1914). 4. Malloch (1924b). 5. Fullaway (1920). 6. Ali (1963). 7. Ayyar (1938). 8. Manjunath (1968). 9. David and Tsacas (1975). 10. Seguy (1933a). 11. Rujendra (1974). 12. Puttarudriah (1954). 13. Szent-Ivany and Ardley (1963). 14. Uichanco and Villanueva (1932). 15. Goseco (1932). 16. Beardsley (1957). 17. Malloch (1924a). 18. Duda (1924). 19. L. Tsacas (personal communication). 20. Ghesquiere (1934). 21. Moutia and Mamet (1946). 22. J. Etienne (personal communication).

and C. (Gitonides) perspicax, a well known predator of scale insects, particularly those on sugar cane and rice.

It is surprising that, in view of the economic importance of the plant hosts of the scale insects predated by *C. perspicax*, very little indeed is known of the biology or life history of this fly. The larvae of *C. perspicax* "live in the tight roll of the leaf axis of the sugar-cane and other grasses" (Hardy, 1965) where they are protected against predation by ants and are in a relatively humid environment (see Dick, 1969). Indeed this is just the environment of the victims of *C. perspicax* though predation of species that live on the leaf lamina [e.g. *Phenacoccus saccharifolii* (Green)] is known (Ali, 1963). Beardsley (1960) notes that the larvae of *C. perspicax* tend not to migrate far in search of foods but to "remain feeding on mealy bugs at a single node".

1

The insects upon which *C. perspicax* is known to feed are listed in Table II. Tsacas and Chenon (1976) point out that the distribution of *C. perspicax* is co-extensive with that of *Saccharicoccus sacchari* (Cockerall), with the noteable exception of the Americas, where the scale insect, but not the drosophilid, is found. However this drosophilid is also known from Western Australia, where sugar-cane is not grown (Bock, 1981).

Presumably this distribution has been very markedly affected by man. There is some evidence that *C. perspicax* can result in a significant biological control of sugar-cane scale insect pests (e.g. Rujendra, 1974) and for this reason, if no other, further studies of the biology of this species would appear to be well justified.

Two other species of *Cacoxenus* are of great interest, they are *C.* (*Cacoxenus*) indagator and *C.* (*Gitonides*) apidoxenus. Though belonging to different subgenera (Tsacas and Chenon, 1976) the similarities in the biology of these two species are so marked that they may be considered together.

Cacoxenus (Cacoxenus) indagator was described from Europe by Loew (1858), and his correspondent, Dr. Schultz of Breslau, clearly recognized the extraordinary association of this fly with certain species of solitary bee. The details of this association were first described in detail by Giraud (1861) but we owe most of our more recent knowledge to two papers by Juillard (1947, 1948). C. indagator is a nest parasite of many species of solitary bee (Table III) in Europe. The study of its biology is aided by the fact that its host species can be induced to colonize artificial nests in the field (see Levin, 1957; Free and Williams, 1970; Raw, 1972; and Tasei, 1972). The nest building habits of Osmia coerulescens (L.) in south-western France have been described by Tasei (1972): the female Osmia provisions, with pollen and nectar, a series of cells within a hollow tube, such as a drinking straw. It takes

TABLE III. Known host bees of Cacoxenus indagator in Europe and C. apidoxenus in West Africa

C. indagator	Anthophora plumipes (Pallas) Chalicodoma pyreniaca (Lep.)	Hamm (1932) Seguy (1934)
	Chalicodoma pyropeza Pz.	Giraud, in Seguy (1934)
	Osmia coerulescens (L.)	Juillard (1947), Richards (1932),
	Osmia totratestens (E.)	Vachal, in Seguy (1934)
	Osmia cornuta Latr.	Juillard (1947), Seguy (1934)
	Osmia emarginata Lep.	Giraud (1861), Mik (1892)
	Osmia fulviventris Pz.	Richards (1932), Raw (1972)
	Osmia rufa (L.)	Richards (1932), Juillard (1947),
		Seguy (1934)
	Osmia ventralis Pz.	Krober (1912)
C. apidoxenus	Chalicodoma cincta Fab.	Tsacas and Chenon (1976)
4	Chalicodoma kamerunensis Friese	Tsacas and Chenon (1976)
	Chalicodoma mephistophelica Gribode	` /

the bee about 20 separate visits (over a period of three hours) to provision each cell and to deposit within it a single egg. The cell is then closed off with a partition made from a paste of leaves of a plant [in Tasei's study, of *Malva moschata* L. (Malvaceae)] mixed with saliva. A linear array of cells is constructed within the nest and the open end finally sealed with a strong plug of masticated leaves (Tasei, 1972) or mud (Juillard, 1947). Whilst the bee constructs and provisions her nest the adult female *Cacoxenus* "tourmbillant devant d'orifice, attendant une occasion propice pour entrer" (Juillard, 1947). When the propitious moment arrives the *Cacoxenus* enters the nest and lays several eggs in an uncompleted, yet provisioned, cell (up to 22 larvae have been found in a single cell; Juillard, 1948) (Fig. 1).

The drosophilid larvae, on hatching, first eat the supplies so providentially stored for her progeny by the bee. What happens next is, in detail, unclear: either the bee larva (which has also hatched by this time) dies of starvation, and may then be eaten by the fly larvae (Raw, 1972) or the larval *Cacoxenus* actually preys upon the living larval *Osmia* (Juillard, 1948). Since, according to both Juillard (1948) and Raw (1972), both *Cacoxenus* and *Osmia* can complete their development within one cell it would appear that the former is the most usual occurrence, the *Osmia* only surviving when "left" enough food by the *Cacoxenus*.

Both host bees and *Cacoxenus* are univoltine species, at least in northern Europe. The fly over-winters as a prepupa or pupa. Before doing so, however, the larvae use their very well developed mouthhooks (Meijere, 1944) to pierce the partitions that separate the bee

cells and migrate distally to the penultimate cell of the nest. To break through the intercellular partitions requires the co-operative effort of several larvae, and the type of effort expended can be seen if *Cacoxenus* third instar larvae are imprisoned within a small gelatine capsule (G. Varley, *in litt*.).

In the spring following the year of their birth the flies and bees complete their development. The adult *Cacoxenus* have, now, a problem: they are quite unable to effect an exit from the nest, through the terminal closure. For this they rely totally upon the single *Osmia* remaining in the terminal cell—this cell is never attacked by the *Cacoxenus*: if all of the bee larvae are removed from a nest, which is then reassembled, then the adult flies are trapped and die within (Juillard, 1947). The lives of the fly and bee must, therefore, be closely synchronized.

The third instar larvae of *Cacoxenus* have been described by Meijere (1944). The most surprising fact is that they, unlike the known larvae of all other Drosophilidae, are metapneustic, that is to say the anterior spiracles are non-functional. Another remarkable fact concerning larval *Cacoxenus* is that their excreta form extraordinarily, and long, ribbon like filaments that eventually fill the infested cells.

A species of the related subgenus Cacoxenus (Gitonides) has recently been discovered in West Africa to have a life-style very similar to that of C. (Cacoxenus) indagator. This species is C. (Gitonides) apidoxenus and it lives in close association with the arboreal nests of a number of solitary bees (Table III) (Tsacas and Chenon, 1976). The bee larvae, in cells infested by C. apidoxenus, die and Tsacas and Chenon suggest three possible reasons why this is so: (i) starvation, (ii) attack by the fly larvae and (iii) infection by bacteria or yeast introduced by the female Cacoxenus in the act of oviposition. Although the nests of the bees infested by C. apidoxenus are globular, rather than linear, this species has the same problem as C. indagator in effecting an exit of the newly emerged adult flies: indeed the problem is solved by precisely the same trick the terminal cell is left uninfested so that its inhabitant can make an exit hole, both for itself and the fly. Since, incidentally, the infestation rates of Osmia by C. indagator can be very high this adaptation also means that infestations do not cripple the bee populations.

In addition to *C. indagator*, itself perhaps a complex of species (Hardy and Wheeler, 1960; Hackman, 1969) and *C. apidoxenus* several other species of this genus have been described from India, Australasia, Europe, Africa and North America but almost nothing is known of their biology. The North American *Cacoxenus* (*Paracacoxenus*) guttatus passes its larval stage in the cankers of the rust fungus *Cronartium comandrae* Peck on the Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta* Douglas var. *latifolia* Engelm)

(Powell, 1971; Powell et al., 1972), and the Palearctic Cacoxenus (Gitonides) vlasavi has been found in the burrows of ground-squirrels (Citrellus (Duda, 1935), a habitat recalling that of Camilla (Camillidae) (Basden, 1961). More predatory species probably remain to be recognized: for example L. Tsacas (in litt.) informs me of a species near Cacoxenus (Gitonides) frontalis which is recorded as "ex Steatococcus sp" in Nigeria.

3. The genus Pseudiastata

The eight described species of this Neotropical genus are related to those of the genus *Cacoxenus* (Sabrosky, 1951; Hardy, 1959; Wheeler, 1960). Their larvae are predacious on coccids. Indeed, several attempts have been made to use *Pseudiastata* for the biological control of coccids, especially of the pineapple [*Ananas cosmos* (L.) Merr] pest *Dysmicoccus brevipes* (Cockerell). In view of this potential it is surprising that the only detailed account of the biology of this genus is that of Goncalves (1939), and this is far from complete, though Lima (1937) and Figueiredo (1938) do include a little biological information in their papers.

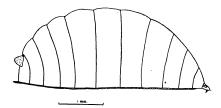


Fig. 2. Larva of Pseudiastata brasiliensis (from Goncalves, 1939).

According to Goncalves (1939) the predation of *D. brevipes* by *P. brasiliensis* is aided by subterranean tunnels made by ants (principally *Solenopsis saevissima* Forel) when the host coccid is feeding upon the roots of the grass *Eriochloa punctata* (L.) Desv. The larvae of *Pseudiastata* attack, in the main, the adult female coccids and are remarkably voracious (see also Carter, 1935). The larvae of *Pseudiastata* are hemispherical (Fig. 2) (Sabrosky, 1951, describes them as "molluscoid" in shape) and have an epidermis thrown into reticulate folds with many dermal glands (Goncalves, 1939).

Various species of *Pseudiastata* were introduced, from Central America, into Hawaii with a view to controlling *D. brevipes* on pineapple. Most accounts (e.g. Fullaway, 1933 and Carter, 1935) consider that the species introduced was *P. nebulosa*, a North American species,

though, in fact, it would appear that at least three different species (*P. brasiliensis*, *P. pseudococcovora* and *P. vorax*) were introduced to Hawaii sometime between 1924 and 1935 (see Hardy, 1965). All of the introductions failed, presumably because too little attention was paid to the host preferences of the different species of fly (Beardsley, cited in Hardy, 1959) or due to parasitism by Chalcids (Carter, 1935).

There is circumstantial (i.e. museum label) evidence that a species of the subgenus *Hyalistata* may predate Psyllids (Wheeler, 1960).

4. The genera Leucophenga, Rhinoleucophenga and Amiota

These remaining steganine genera will be considered here together for, in each instance, we have only tantalizing glimpses of the biology of those flies of relevance to the subject of this review.

At least three species of *Leucophenga* are known to have larvae which associate with the spittle produced by gregarious larval Cercopidae (Homoptera) (see Williams, 1931). They recall the habits of the larval *Cladocheata* (see Section II, C, 1). *Leucophenga* is a very large genus (after

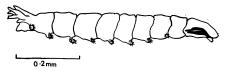


Fig. 3. Third instar larva of *Leucophenga proxima* showing the ventral spines (from Medler and Adenuga, 1969).

Drosophila and Scaptomyza the largest in the family Drosophilidae) predominantly tropical in its distribution. Remarkably little is known of the biology of any species; they are generally considered to breed in fungi and rotting vegetation (see Lachaise, 1974). However three Afro-Tropical species, L. decaryi, L. proxima and an undescribed species near L. sema, are known to develop in cercopid spittle masses. L. decaryi was described (as Ptyelusimyia decaryi) from the spittle of Ptyelus goudoti Bennett in Malagasy (Seguy, 1932), and the other two species from spittle of cercopids in Nigeria (Medler and Adenuga, 1969) and Uganda (Odhiambo, 1958) respectively.

Larvae of *L. proxima* are found, in Nigeria, in the spittle masses of both *Ptyelus grossus* Fabricus and *Poophilus adustus* (Walker). The association of fly and cercopid is one of inquilism, the cercopid nymphs being unharmed by the presence of the drosophilid larvae in their spittle masses. In a manner similar to the larvae of *Cladochaeta* those of *Leuco-*

phenga attach themselves to the dorsal surfaces of the cercopid nymphs, and this is probably an adaptation for phoresy, since disturbed cercopid nymphs abandon their spittle masses and would, otherwise, leave their drosophilid guests behind to desiccate. The ventral surfaces of the larvae of Leucophenga proxima are adapted to attaching to the nymphs, with "pseudolegs" covered with chitinous hooks (Fig. 3); at least the larvae of those Japanese species of Leucophenga described by Okada (1968) do not possess similar pseudolegs. The cercopid associated Cladochaeta inversa shows a similar adaptation (Sturtevant 1942; Wheeler, 1952).

The extent to which the association between *L. proxima* and cercopids is obligatory is unclear. Collart (1939) reared *L. proxima* from fungi in Zaire but found the adults in association with the honey-dew of species of *Lecanium* (Homoptera:Coccoidea).

In the genus Rhinoleucophenga one species, R. obesa, has been reported to predate the coccid Aclerda takahashii Kuwana as larvae (Lima, 1935). Wheeler (1970) questions the occurrence of this North American species in Brazil, as reported by Lima, and there the matter must rest. However there are two species described in the genus Gitona that should probably be considered to be Rhinoleucophenga (Wheeler, Chapter 1; Basden, 1966). They are G. brasiliensis and G. fluminensis of South America. Larvae of both predate coccids (Lima, 1950). G. brasiliensis has a fairly wide Neotropical distribution (Wheeler, 1961) and a description of its biology has been published by Beingolea (1965).

At least six species of the coccid genus *Orthezia* are devoured by larval *G. brasiliensis* in Peru. The female fly lays her eggs on the back of the prey and the first instar *Gitona* penetrate the wax "marsupial" of the scale insect [in *Orthezia* the eggs are "protected between wax plates secreted from the end of the abdomen" (Imms, 1957)]. At first the fly larvae eat the egg mass of the scale-insect but eventually they devour the whole of their prey until just its cuticular exoskeleton remains. The *Gitona* larva then pupariates within its prey's remains.

So far undescribed species of Amiota have been found to predate three species of Homoptera on Reunion Island: Saccharicoccus sacchari (Cockerell) (Pseudococcidae), Peregrinus maidis (Ashmead) and Perkinsiella saccharicida Kirkaldy (both Delphacidae). These three species are all pests of sugar-cane (J. Etienne, personal communication).

The last species to be considered in this section is perhaps the most enigmatic and least known. It is *Amiota xyleboriphaga*, whose life cycle is, in some manner, associated with the wood beetle *Xyleborus fornicatus* Eichhoff, a pest of tea (*Camellia sinensis* (L.) O. Kunze) in Sri Lanka. The presence, in the tunnels of this beetle, of a fly was, apparently, first noted by Rutherford in 1914. It is presumably the same species

that was later described by Senior-White (1921, see also Jepson, 1921). According to Senior-White, Jepson had seen the larvae of A. xylebori-phaga "eat a pupa of the beetle, tunnelling completely inside, and sucking it dry in about twenty minutes". Labels on specimens of A. xyleboriphaga in the British Museum (London) are splendidly uninformative, for example, "bred from X. fornicatus in tea" (B. Cogan, in litt.). The status of A. xyleboriphaga as a predator must, however, be questioned in the light of the fact that Xyleborus is a typical ambrosia beetle, living in symbiotic association with fungi that grow in the beetle's tunnels (for reviews see Graham, 1967; Francke-Grosmann, 1967). These fungi [Monacrosporidium (Ascomycete; Moniliaceae) in the case of X. fornicatus] often produce sweet smelling esters and attract many inquilines to the galleries. It would not, therefore, be surprising were reinvestigation to show that A. xyleboriphaga was mainly dependent on the beetle's fungi, rather than the beetle itself.

C. THE SUBFAMILY DROSOPHILINAE

1. The genus Cladochaeta

"One hot July day, while annoying some of those amphibious infants [the larvae of spittle bugs (Cercopidae)] by poking into their unpleasant habitations, I noticed some small dipterous larvae that were apparently enjoying life under the same conditions as the hemipter that built the foam. These flies were evidently able to go through the life cycle among the bubble, for the little pupae were there, glued to the leaves by the drying froth" (Ainslie, 1906). Thus heralds the discovery of the flies now known under the name Cladochaeta. Ainslie himself considered the flies he found to be Drosophila sigmoides but it was Sturtevant (1921) who pointed out that this was a misidentification for D. inversa, a species later taken by Malloch (in Malloch and McAtee, 1924) to be the type of the genus Clastopteromyia. In a subsequent revision Frota-Pessoa (1947) united Malloch's Clastopteromyia (shown by Wheeler and Takada, 1971, to be a synonym of Cladochaeta) and Duda's genus Diathoneura though this has not always been accepted (Wheeler, 1952; Wheeler and Takada 1971). Both genera are predominantly Neotropical in their distribution though C. inversa is found as far north as Quebec and a species has been attributed to Diathoneura from Nepal (Okada, 1966).

All three species of *Cladochaeta* (i.e. *C. inversa*, *C. paradoxa* and *C. sturtevanti*) known in their pre-adult stages have larvae that are inquilines of cercopid nymphs. Having said this it should be pointed out that

several authors have, in the past, considered the relationship between drosophilid and cercopid to be a predatory one. For example Williams (cited by Lamb, 1918) writes of the larval *C. paradoxa* that their heads "were buried in the abdomen of the *Clastoptera* nymphs, the head usually being inserted between the dorsal abdominal plates" (see also Baerg, 1920 and Williams, 1923, 1931) (Fig. 4.). Wheeler (1952, also quoting Sturtevant) also considers that the drosophilid larvae predate the cercopids, since larvae removed from the spittle died.

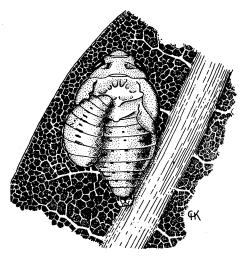


Fig. 4. A larval Cladochaeta associated with a nymph of Clastoptera (from Baerg, 1920).

On the other hand Baerg (1920) and Bennett (1965) formed the opinion that the relationship was one of inquilism. Both of these authors draw attention to the fact that the fly larvae only attach themselves (by well developed ventral hooks; Sturtevant 1942; Wheeler, 1952) to the cercopid nymphs when the latter are disturbed. As with the species of *Leucophenga*, discussed above (see Section II, B, 4), this has obvious advantages for the fly larva, for if the cercopid leaves its spittle when disturbed the fly larva will follow. Bennett (1965) reared eggs of *Cladochaeta* to pupae outside spittle.

The spittle masses of the cercopid nymphs are the products of the nymph's Malpighian tubules (see Marshall, 1966; Weaver and King, 1954; Hagley, 1965). They are rich in mucopolysaccharides, sugars and amino acids from the plant sap upon which the nymph is feeding. The spittle masses are by no means sterile and are contaminated by bacteria

(Wilson and Dorsey, 1957). There would appear to be little reason why they should not provide food for the development of a drosophilid.

The host specificity of Cladochaeta species is not known. According to Baerg (1920) C. inversa was common on spittle masses of Clastoptera obtusa (Say) (on Alnus sp.) but was absent from spittle masses of C. proteus (on Cornus sp.) nearby. It would appear that in the Eastern United States of America C. obtusa is the main host of Cladochaeta inversa but that in California the main host is C. lineaticollis Stal (Wheeler, 1952). In Trinidad several host species have been recorded by Bennett (1965) and the genus has been considered for the biological control of some pests of Theobroma. Host specificity may, of course, reflect the composition of the spittle, itself dependant upon the plant upon which the cercopid feeds, as well as on the species of cercopid per se.

Pipkin (1965; Pipkin et al., 1966) collected various species of Cladochaeta in Central America under conditions suggesting that their larvae were flower breeders: for example she regularly collected adult flies over fallen fruits and flowers and bred a fly from the fallen fruit of Clusia sp. In view of these studies it must remain uncertain to what extent members of this genus are exclusively adapted to living in association with cercopid nymphs.

2. The genus Drosophila

Relatively few species of *Drosophila* have departed far from the typical larval habits of the genus. In fact only the two species of flies whose larvae are associated with land crabs (and these are probably microorganism feeders) and the very specialized *simulivora* species group, whose larvae are carnivores, warrant inclusion here.

(a) The simulivora species group

The *simulivora* species group was established by Tsacas and Disney (1974) for a number of Afro-Tropical species (four have been described) the larvae of which are both predatory and either truly aquatic or semi-aquatic. The relationships of this homogeneous group of species within the subgenus *Drosophila* are unclear, though there is a suggestion of a relationship to the *polychaeta* species group, whose members are fungal feeders.

The first species to be described in what is now recognized as the *simulivora* species groups was *D. gibbinsi*, described from material collected in the River Nile in East Africa (Aubertin, 1937). The larvae of this species were described in an accompanying paper by Smart (1937) and Smart noted not only their adaptation to aquatic life but also the

fact that their guts contained the head capsules of chironomids (but see Disney, 1975, who restudied Smart's material and found the guts to include remains of both chironomids and simuliids). Nothing else was heard of *D. gibbinsi*, or anything like it, until Disney's discovery of two closely related species in West Africa (Tsacas and Disney, 1974) and Gouteux's rediscovery of *D. gibbinsi* itself (Gouteux, 1976). Subsequently a fourth species was discovered in the Gabon.

With respect to their larval habitats the four known species of the *simulivora* group are either truly aquatic and carnivorous, living on eggs and young larvae of simuliids and chironomids (i.e. *D. gibbinsi*, *D. cogani* and *D. simulivora*), or semi-aquatic living in the gelatinous egg masses of Odonata and carnivorous, feeding on the eggs of the dragonflies (i.e. *D. libellulosa*).

Tsacas and Legrand (1979) suggest that *D. libellulosa* represents an intermediate evolutionary step between terrestrial ancestors and the truly aquatic species. Certainly two of the most obvious larval adaptations of the three aquatic species, their anterior spiracles and their ventral hooks, are far less well developed in *libellulosa* than in the other three species (Fig. 5).

The anterior spiracles of the three aquatic species are quite remarkable, in both their size and in the number of their feather like papillae (Fig. 5). Presumably these anterior spiracles act as tracheal gills (Smart, 1937). In *D. simulivora* each anterior spiracle possesses nearly 100 papillae.

The second marked adaptation of the *simulivora* group larvae are the extensively developed rows of large sclerotized ventral hooks on the abdominal segments (Fig. 5). Each segment carries three double rows of hooks; in *D. cogani* lateral rows face anterior and the medial rows face posterior-wards (in *D. gibbinsi* the opposite is true). Tsacas and Disney (1974) point out that a similar adaptation also occurs in larval Empididae, another group which feeds on larval Simuliidae, and they suggest that the hooks help the larvae to move and retain a firm "foothold" in the fast streams in which they live (see discussion in Smart, 1937).

All known members of the *simulivora* species group are carnivorous as larvae. In West Africa, at least, the eggs and young larvae of Simuliidae and Chironomidae appear to be the chief diet of all species except *D. libellulosa*. All species have rather special mouth parts, for example in the three aquatic species there is an extra sclerite and the mouth hooks are fused dorsally (both unique features in the Drosophilidae) (Tsacas and Disney, 1974, Gouteux, 1976).

The habits of the larval D. libellulosa are, as far as is known, re-

stricted to the egg masses of *Malgassophlebia aequatoris* Legrand (Odonata) (Legrand, 1979). These egg masses are not aquatic, but are to be found on vegetation bordering forest streams. There is a remarkable parallel between this habitat and those of the *Zygothrica* species feeding on frog's eggs in Central America (see below, Section II, C, 4). Indeed Tsacas and Legrand (1979) suggest that amphibian egg masses may be an alternative habitat for *D. libellulosa*. The entire development of the larvae occurs in the egg masses, the eggs being consumed and the animals pupating within the egg jelly.

The three truly aquatic species complete their entire larval development in water. Oviposition has never been observed, yet even D. melanogaster will oviposit on water (Yoon and Fox, 1965) and egg laying would not appear to be any major problem for these species. Pupation occurs in air or just below the air—water interface (Gouteux, 1976) the larvae adhering to a suitable leaf (Smart, 1937: incidentally



Fig. 5. (a) Pupa of *Drosophila gibbinsi* showing the rows of ventral hooks and the anterior spiracles (from Smart, 1937). (b) and (c) Scanning electron micrographs of the ventral hooks of (b) *D. simulivora* and (c) of *D. libellulosa* (from Tsacas and Legrand, 1979).





this paper appears to be the first that correctly attributes to the larval salivary gland of *Drosophila* its function, i.e. the production of the puparial glue, see Fraenkel and Brookes, 1953). Whether or not eclosion can occur below the water line is unknown; perhaps the flies only eclose when the water level drops. In the case of *D. libellulosa* the pupae are orientated within the egg jelly in such a way that eclosion occurs without the flies becoming trapped in the egg's jelly.

It is very unlikely that we know the full extent of the *simulivora* radiation, for example L. Tsacas (*in litt.*) informs me of two undescribed species from East Africa. D. libellulosa is known only from the Gabon, D. cogani and D. simulivora from West Africa (Liberia, Camerouns) and D. gibbinsi from Uganda, Rwanda, Natal and, perhaps, from Malagassy (though this may be a fifth species). The extent to which the species display prey specificity (see Tsacas and Disney, 1974; Disney, 1975) is also unknown. In view of the opinion of Tsacas and Disney (1974) that these species may be useful for the biological control of Simulium damnosum Theobald, an important vector of human disease in Africa, further studies of these species are obviously desirable.

(b) Crab associated Drosophila

The association of Lissocephala powelli and land crabs on Christmas Island has already been mentioned in this review. In addition to this species there are also two Drosophila that have evolved a remarkably similar adaptation (Carson, 1974). The association of Drosophila and land crabs was first noted by Hubbard (1895) but it is only recently that we have learnt very much more about these interesting flies. The two species concerned are the repleta species group member D. carcinophila (Wheeler, 1960) and the virilis-quinaria section species D. endobranchia (Carson and Wheeler, 1968).

Both D. carcinophila and D. endobranchia are found in the Caribbean and both are associated with the land crab Gecarcinus ruricola (L.) though not sympatrically. The larvae of D. carcinophila live in the nephric groove of the crab, a "microorganism-laden urinal" (Carson, 1974), whilst the larvae of D. endobranchia are found in the nephric groove only in the first instar, they then migrate into the gill chambers of the crab. The two species also differ in the site their larvae choose for pupariation, those of D. carcinophila pupariate on the crab's third maxilliped (Fig. 6) whilst those of D. endobranchia, like the larvae of Lissocephala powelli, leave their host to pupariate in the soil.

The adults of both *D. carcinophila* and *D. endobranchia* (but not of *L. powelli*) are also associated closely with their host crabs (Carson, 1967, 1974).

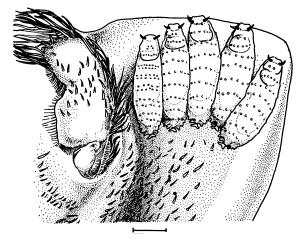


Fig. 6. Pupae of *Drosophila carcinophila* on the third maxilliped of *Gecarcinus ruricola* (from Carson, 1967).

It is truly remarkable that three species of drosophilid have adapted to a similar commensal association with land crabs. The fact that the excretory products of the crabs provide an ideal, and to the flies, accessible, site for the culture of microorganisms is certainly one contributory factor.

(c) A miscellany

It seems worthwhile to record examples of bizarre habitats of otherwise "conventional" *Drosophila* under this heading. The rather non-discriminating habits of *D. busckii* are well known (see Sturtevant, 1921; Okada and Sasakawa, 1956). However the occurrence of larval *D. busckii* in the head of a Hottentott, arriving in Germany from South West Africa (Schulze, 1912), and in the scum covering formalin-preserved fish in a Zoology Department (M. Ashburner, unpublished observations; see also Sturtevant, 1912) are peculiarly nasty habitats even for this fly.

True myiasis by species of *Drosophila* is, fortunately, rare—I can find only the observations of Escher-Kundig (1902) of *D. phalerata* larvae being bred from a postoperatively infected breast tumor of a 50 year old Turk.

Two species, *D. busckii* and *D. repleta*, are said to parasitize the larvae of Lepidoptera (Bonnamour 1921; see also Seguy, 1933a, 1951; Mages, 1956). Attempts to repeat Bonnamour's observation, of the parasitism of larval *Pieris brassicae* L. by *D. busckii*, failed, though the fly larvae

did breed very well on the caterpillar's artificial diet (M. Ashburner and C. Redfern, unpublished observations). Lachaise (Volume 3) reviews the known examples of drosophilids developing in the cadavers of Lepidoptera.

3. The genus Titanochaeta

This genus, probably related to *Scaptomyza* (Hardy, 1965), is endemic to the Hawaiian islands. All eleven described species would appear to predate, as larvae, the eggs of the endemic Hawaiian spider family Thomisidae (Carson, 1971). Very little has been learnt of their biology since their discovery by Knab in 1914 (see also Swezey, 1929). According to Carson (1971) the female fly lays a few eggs within the spider's egg mass, which is then completely devoured by the larvae which pupariate within the remains of the egg sac (Wirth, 1952).

4. The genus Zygothrica

The sixty or so species of this genus are predominantly Neotropical in their distribution, though several species have recently been described from South-East Asia and a few are known from the Pacific islands. Very little is known of their biology though most species are thought to be fungus breeders (Burla, 1956; Takada, 1976). One, presumably aberrant, species has larvae which feed upon the eggs and early embryos of tree frogs (Villa, 1977, 1978). The egg masses of several species of frog are apparently infested, though in Nicaragua Centrolenella fleischmanni (Boettger) is the chief host. This, and other frogs whose eggs are prey, lay their egg masses attached to leaves, rather than being aquatic.

The female Zygothrica (the species studied by Villa is either Z. pleurostrigata, known from Brazil, or a very similar species, M. R. Wheeler in litt.) lays her eggs below the surface of the gelatinous egg mass and the larvae, on hatching, devour the frog embryos. It is very important that the flies synchronize their egg laying with that of the frogs since by the time the frogs have developed to the tadpole stage they are able to ward off attack by the drosophilid larvae (Fig. 7). Villa (1978) suggests that the drosophilid have found species of frog for which their own life cycle is pre-adapted; the developmental period of the chief host, C. fleischmanni, being the longest of all species studied by Villa. The fate of the Zygothrica in the dry season, when the frogs do not breed, is unknown (a similar problem faces D. libellulosa in the Gabon, Tsacas and Legrand, 1979).

In addition to Zygothrica near pleurostrigata Villa (1978) also describes

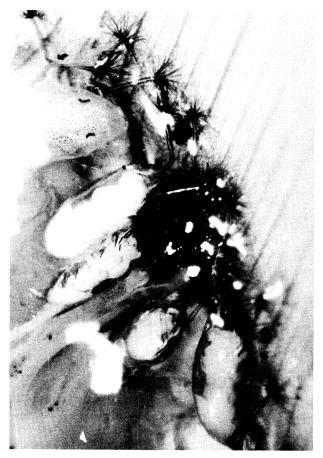


Fig. 7. Pupae of the frog fly *Zygothrica* sp. in the egg jelly mass of *Centrolenella fleischmanni*. Note surviving frog tadpole upper left and the anterior spiracles of the pupae (compare these with those of *D. gibbinsi* in Fig. 5(a) (from Villa, 1978).

a species of *Leucopsis* whose larvae have a very similar habitat in *Centrolenella* spp. egg masses. This too is a drosophilid!—a member of the subgenus *Drosophila* (Villa, 1980). It may coexist with the *Zygothrica* sp. in an egg mass. Whilst the *Zygothrica* sp. pupate within the egg jelly those of the *Drosophila* species leave the egg mass to pupate. The pupae of the *Drosophila* sp. are not, like those of the *Zygothrica* sp., adapted to a "semi-aquatic" pupal life. The *Zygothrica* sp. pupae have very long anterior spiracular horns [with an anterior horn index, i.e. the ratio length of pupa without anterior spiracles to length of anterior spiracles (Okada, 1968), of about 1.5 (compare with an index of 12

for *D. melanogaster*)], with over 20 long filaments which spread out on the jelly surface (Villa 1978). The pupae of *D. libellulosa* also have a very low horn index (about 4), their aquatic *simulivora* group relatives having indices between 8 and 9.

III. Conclusion

The known associations between species of the family Drosophilidae and other animals are summarized in Table IV. Assuredly many others remain to be discovered but for this to happen *Drosophila* biologists will either have to broaden the scope of their collecting methods or rely upon the serendipity of other entomologists.

The commensal association of drosophilids and other animals are perhaps best seen in the case of the crab-flies. All the three species which have, quite independently, evolved an association with land crabs remain, like members of the family in general, microorganism feeders (the same may be true for the cercopid-associated flies). Indeed Wallace (1978) so successfully adapted a laboratory strain of *Drosophila virilis* to a not dissimilar habitat, plastic "felt" soaked in decomposing human urine, that, after one year, these flies were unable to grow on standard laboratory *Drosophila* medium. However the adaptation of the crab-flies to their hosts must require much more than an adaptation to a crab's discharges as a food source; it must, of course, involve the evolution of a complete behavioural repertoire.

It is interesting that in the other associations that may be regarded as commensal, i.e. of *Cacoxenus indagator* and *C. apidoxenus* with bees, the larval nutrition is also not unexceptional for drosophilids, i.e. pollen. Many of the flower-breeding *Drosophila*, for example *D. flavopilosa*, have pollen-feeding larvae.

Amongst the predatory species of the family one fact stands out very strongly. That is the close association between many steganine genera and Homoptera and, moreover, with species of Homoptera which produce copious exuvates, such as waxes and honey-dew.

The honey-dew of the Homoptera are excretory products rich in sugars and amino acids (Gray, 1952; Ewart and Metcalfe 1956). The accumulation of these exuvates on the leaves of the infested plants leads, especially in the tropics but also in temperate regions, to the growth of what are commonly known as "sooty-moulds" (Hughes, 1976). These are saprophytic fungi, often of the Ascomycete genus Capnodium (Leach, 1940; Viennot-Bourgin, 1949; see also Dick, 1969). In Europe the so-called "black yeast", Aureobasidium pullulans (Hyphomycetes), is also a common growth on honey-dew contaminated

Table IV. A summary of the association of Drosophilidae and other animals

"Hos	t''.	Fly	Type of association ^a		
Crustacea: Insecta:	Eucarida	Lissocephala powelli Drosophila carcinophila D. endobranchia	commensal commensal commensal		
Homoptera:	Cercopidae Delphacidae	Leucophenga spp. Cladochaeta spp. Cacoxenus perspicax	commensal commensal predatory		
	Psyllidae Aleyrodidae Ortheziidae Pseudococcidae	Amiota sp. Pseudiastata sp.? Acletoxenus spp. Rhinoleucophenga "American Gitona"b Cacoxenus perspicax	predatory ? predatory predatory predatory predatory predatory		
Hymenoptera: Coleoptera: Diptera:	Apoidea Scolytidae Chironomidae Simuliidae	Amiota sp. Pseudiastata spp. Cacoxenus spp. Amiota xyleboriphaga Drosophila simulivora sp. group Drosophila simulivora sp.	predatory predatory commensal/predatory predatory? predatory		
Odonata:	Libellulidae	group Drosophila simulivora sp.	predatory		
Archnida: Amphibia:	Araneida Anura	group Titanochaeta spp. Zygothrica spp.	predatory predatory		

^a I use these terms in their colloquial senses: see Starr (1975) for a discussion of the classification of the types of association between different organisms. "Commensal" is, in Starr's terminology, "an exhabitational symbiosis, in which the exhabiting symbiont feeds on surplus food captured by the exhabited (substrate) symbiont" and "predation" is "an exhabitational antagonistic, nutritionally dependant, necrotrophic symbiosis, with behavioural overtones". ^b See Page 407.

leaves. Both the honey-dew itself and the moulds growing on it may well provide food for adult drosophilids (see Collart, 1939). Indeed Aureobasidium has been isolated from the crops of wild caught Drosophila (Begon, 1973) and the sooty-moulds have been found to be eaten by other flies (Yamamoto, 1951). Although I know of no drosophilid whose larvae feed on sooty-moulds or Aureobasidium the fact that many drosophilids have leaf-mining larvae should not be forgotten when considering the origin of those species whose larvae now predate the Homoptera.

The predation of Homoptera by drosophilids (paralleled, inci-

dentally, in the families Cecidoniyiidae, see Nijveldt, 1969, and Chamaemyiidae) is aided by the fact that the prey are both gregarious in habit and relatively immobile.

True parasitism is unknown in the Drosophilidae. However, I cannot end this review without drawing attention to the family Cryptochaetidae, still considered by some modern dipterists (e.g. Oldroyd, 1964) to be included within the Drosophilidae. Some 25 species have been described in this family and all appear to be endoparasites of monophlebine coccids (Margarodidae), yet another Homopteran association. The majority of species are Afro-Tropical in their distribution, although nine are known from the Oriental region and Japan, three from Australia and two from Europe. An Australian species, C. iceryae (Williston) was introduced to California in the last century, and subsequently to many other regions, for the biological control of the Citrus pest Periceria purchasi (Maskell). The Californian introductions were dramatically successful (see Smith and Compere, 1916; Thorpe, 1930; Debach, 1974).

Our knowledge of the biology of Cryptochaetum stems largely from three studies by Thorpe (1930, 1934, 1941) of C. iceryae, of the European C. grandicorne and of various African species. The adult female fly oviposits directly into the haemocoel of an immature scale insect host. The first instar larvae of the fly are quite extraordinary, they lack mouth parts, a functional gut, a tracheal system and show little evidence of segmentation. They apparently absorb nutrients from their host through their very thin cuticle. They, and subsequent instars, possess two remarkable "tails" which, by the second instar become heavily invested with tracheae: these tails function as tracheal gills [similar "tails" are seen in some larval Conopidae, internal parasites of Bombus spp. (de Meijere, 1904)]. By the second instar mouth hooks have developed but the gut remains closed until the final instar. Only in the last instar does the parasite devour its host, leaving only the cuticle through which the anterior spiracles are forced at puparium formation. Adult Cryptochaetum feed on honey-dew (Clausen, 1940).

Amongst the drosophilids only *Gitona brasiliensis* approaches the degree of adaptation to true endoparasitism seen in the Cryptochaetidae. However this statement must be tempered by our almost complete ignorance of the biology of many other predators, for example of *Gacoxenus perspicax*.

Remarkably "unusual" habitats have been colonized independently by quite different drosophilids. The example of the three crab-associated flies has already been discussed but, in addition, there are the two quite different groups (*Leucophenga* and *Cladochaeta*) associated with cercopid

spittle masses, two quite different groups (*Drosophila* and *Zygothrica*) associated with the gelatinous egg masses of dragon flies and frogs and the several genera which predate Homoptera. The study of the genetic mechanisms that have allowed these adaptations to occur will be fascinating.

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(Those marked with an asterisk have not been seen in the original).

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