

MOSQUITO NOTES.--IV.

by

F. W. Edwards.

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CONTENTS :

	PAGE
A. New and little-known Culicine Mosquitos from the Malay Peninsula ..	1
B. Two new Indian <i>Aedes</i>	4
C. Culicine Mosquitos from New Britain	5
D. A new <i>Hodgesia</i> from New Guinea	8
E. A new <i>Rachionotomyia</i> from Tasmania	8
F. A new <i>Taeniorhynchus</i> from Palestine	9

A.—NEW AND LITTLE-KNOWN CULICINE MOSQUITOS FROM THE MALAY PENINSULA.

The interesting collection of Culicine mosquitos on which these notes are based was made during 1922 by Dr. H. P. Hacker, of the Malaria Bureau, Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States. Most of the material was obtained during an expedition to Cameron's Highlands, on the main range near Tapah, in September. A small amount of additional material from Ulu Gombak also yielded some specimens of interest.

The specimens reared by Dr. Hacker from pitcher-plants add one species to this peculiar fauna. The species of mosquitos so far found breeding in pitcher-plants in the Oriental region are the following :—

Megarhinus splendens, Wied., Singapore (*Finlayson*); recorded by Leicester (1908) in note under *Teromyia quasiferox*. The specimens are in the British Museum.

M. ater (Daniels). Pahang River (*Daniels*, 1908).

M. acaudatus (Leic.). Singapore (*Finlayson*); recorded by Leicester.

M. metallicus (Leic.) var. Cameron's Highlands (*Hacker*).

Uranotaenia nivipleura, Leic. Singapore (*Finlayson*); recorded by Leicester.

U. ascidiicola, de Meij. Tjibodas, Java (*Jensen*); recorded by de Meijere (1910).

- U. brevirostris*, Edw. Kuching, Sarawak (*J. Hewitt*). Specimens in British Museum.
- Rachionotomyia mendacis* (Daniels). Pahang River (*Daniels*, 1908).
- R. vicina*, Edw. The Gap, Selangor (*C. Strickland*, 1915); specimens in British Museum. Cameron's Highlands (*Hacker*).
- R. aranoioides* (Theo.). Pahang River (*Daniels*, 1908, as *Skeiromyia fusca*). Tjibodas, Java (*Jensen*; recorded by de Meijere as *Ficalbia tenex*). Seramban and Cameron's Highlands (*Hacker*).
- R. dofleini* (Günther) (? = *affinis*, Edw.). Ceylon.
- R. nepenthis*, Edw. Borneo (*Hewitt*); recorded by Edwards (1914).
- Wyeomyia nepenthicola*, Banks (*mus*, Dyar). Philippine Islands.
- Armigeres treubi* (de Meij.). Tjibodas, Java (*Jensen*); recorded by de Meijere.
- Culex (Lophoceratomyia) jenseni* (de Meij.). Tjibodas, Java (*Jensen*); Seramban (*Hacker*).
- C. (L.) hewitti*, Edw. Kuching, Sarawak (*J. Hewitt*); specimens in British Museum.

Megarhinus metallicus (Leic.).

This was described by Leicester from specimens bred from bamboos. Dr. Hacker obtained examples at Ulu Gombak and Cameron's Highlands from living bored bamboos, from dead bamboos, and also one typical female from a tree-hole. He also reared the species from living and dead pitcher-plants on Cameron's Highlands. These last specimens have the prothoracic lobes almost entirely covered with purplish scales, the white ones being very much reduced in number; the first two segments of the male palpi are largely purple instead of golden-scaled above, and the male also differs somewhat from the type as regards the form of the ninth tergite, but these differences are probably individual and not definitely specific or varietal. *M. metallicus* is evidently less restricted in its breeding habits than are some members of the genus, though doubtless more so than *M. splendens*.

In the bamboos *M. magnificus* (Leic.) was found associated with *M. metallicus*.

Uranotaenia maxima, Theo.

This was described by Leicester from two captured females, and no other examples of the species have been reported. Dr. Hacker reared a small series, both sexes being represented, in Cameron's Highlands, from rock pools at the edge of a stream. The males show no special modifications in the legs, but differ from the females in having much more numerous whitish scales on the radius; these scales, instead of being confined to the extreme base of the vein (as in the female), extend for fully half the length of the basal cell. A precisely similar sexual difference occurs in the closely related *U. macfarlanei*, Edw.

Topomyia spathulirostris, sp. n.

Head clothed with rather light brownish scales with a pearly lustre; a narrow silvery area on the vertex adjoining the eyes, and a rather large silvery patch low down on each side. Vertical bristles yellow, orbitals black. Palpi very short, black. Proboscis about as long as the abdomen and considerably shorter than the long front femora. Upper surface black-scaled; in the ♂ a narrow snow-white ring at the base, ventral surface whitish on the basal four-fifths; in the ♀ the basal white ring is absent, but the ventral pale line is indicated. In both sexes the apical fifth, or rather more, of the proboscis (but not the small labella) is very broad and flat. Antennae normal, alike in the two sexes. *Thorax* with blackish integument, rather rubbed in both specimens, but apparently showing the following scale characters: Prothoracic lobes with flat silvery scales; pro-epimera with flat golden scales. Mesonotal scales mostly narrow, curved, dark brownish; a double median row of roundish scales, which on the front margin of the mesonotum are white, but behind this are dark

brown; this double row apparently stopping short in front of the scutellum. Scutellar scales mostly dark brown, a double row of silvery ones in the middle of the median lobe. One pro-epimeral bristle; apparently only two spiracular. *Abdomen* with the tergites uniformly blackish, sternites uniformly golden-scaled. Hypopygium: ninth tergite with the lateral angles drawn out into long points, each bearing a single terminal spine. Side-pieces with small ill-defined hair-tufts at the inner apical angles; large sub-basal lobes each bearing one stout spine which reaches beyond the tip of the side-piece. Claspers split almost to the base into two slender and divergent parts, the outer nearly twice as long as the inner and bearing a long and extremely fine hair at its tip. Aedocagus constructed somewhat as in *T. gracilis*, Leic. *Legs* uniformly dark above, indistinctly paler beneath, more noticeably so in the ♂. Hind femora markedly shorter than the others, the mid pair the longest. *Wings* with dark brown scales, the outstanding ones linear. Upper fork-cell about twice as long as its stem; *An* ending a moderate distance beyond fork of *Cu*. Wing-length, 3 mm.

MALAY PENINSULA: Cameron's Highlands, 3,500 ft.; type ♂ and 1 ♀ reared from bamboos (*Dr. H. P. Hacker*).

An extremely distinct species by coloration and by the form of the proboscis and of the male claspers. The structure of the male ninth tergite and side-piece suggests a relationship with *T. decorabilis*, Leic. This is the first occasion on which a member of this genus has been reared, and it is unfortunate that larval skins were not preserved.

Armigeres (Leicesteria) dolichocephala, Leic.

Dr. Hacker reared a short series of this species from living bored bamboos, on Cameron's Highlands, 3,500 ft., associated with *L. pectinata*, Edw., and *L. annulitarsis*, Leic. These three species are very similar, all having the same peculiarly flattened thorax and strongly produced mesonotum, characteristic of some but not all species of the subgenus *Leicesteria*.

The male of *L. dolichocephala* has not previously been described. In its hypopygial characters it proves to resemble *L. magna*, Theo., rather closely, but differs in some details: the side-pieces are rather more hairy, and the claspers are much more slender, especially towards the tip, which bears only seven instead of nine spines, the first of which is very much longer than the others; external to the four spines of the basal lobe is a long fine hair.

Armigeres (Leicesteria) annulitarsis, Leic.

The male of this species also has not up to the present been described, although the British Museum possesses specimens collected and presented by Capt. P. J. Barraud, obtained from larvae in bamboo stumps at Nagargali, Bombay Deccan. The Malayan examples now received from *Dr. Hacker* agree with the Indian ones. The hypopygium is remarkable in having a regular row of six or seven long blunt-tipped spines on the large basal lobes of the side-pieces; external to these spines is a fairly dense hair-tuft. The claspers are moderately long and slender, narrowed in the middle, and bear a row of five terminal spines, of which the first and last are distinctly longer than the others.

Aedes (Finlaya) saxicola, Edw. (fluviatilis, Leic.).

Cameron's Highlands, 3,500 ft.; a number reared from larvae found in rock pools. Leicester's original types are lost, and the species has not been found again till now.

Ficalbia fusca (Leic.).

A single female of this rare species was taken on the wing on Cameron's Highlands, 3,500 ft. This is the first record of the species since Leicester's description.

***Culex hackeri*, sp. n.**

Head clothed mostly with whitish narrow curved and dark upright scales, the flat scales confined to the sides. Vertical bristles pale yellowish, orbitals dark. Palpi alike in the two sexes, exceeding the clypeus by rather more than twice its length, distinctly two-segmented. Proboscis longer than the front femora. Male antennae distinctly plumose, verticils with about 12-15 hairs; antepenultimate segment shorter than the preceding ones; last two segments together about two-thirds as long as the remaining segments together. *Thorax* with brownish integument, pleura apparently devoid of markings. Mesonotal scales rather small, not very dense, dark brownish, lighter round the front margin. Scutellum with a few fine brown scales on the mid lobe. Pleura unscaled. One lower mesepimeral bristle. *Abdomen* dark brown above, somewhat paler below. Hypopygium: side-piece without a definite hair-patch, lobe with three long and somewhat hooked rods, one being more flattened, and with six shorter, flattened, blunt-tipped blades, but no definite leaf. Clasper rather broad towards the base, but tapering to a rather sharp point. Aedoeagus much as in *C. khazani*, but the lobes somewhat less spiny. *Legs* dark, femora pale beneath, hind femora whitish except for the tip and a narrow dorsal line on the apical fourth. *Wings* with dark scales, outstanding ones somewhat clavate. Upper fork-cell twice (♂) or three times (♀) as long as its stem. Wing-length, 2.5-3 mm.

MALAY PENINSULA: Cameron's Highlands, 3,500 and 5,000 ft. (*Dr. H. P. Hacker*). Larvae in pools at edges of streams. Type ♂, 3 other ♂ and 2 ♀ in the British Museum.

The only near relatives of this species are *C. castrensis*, Edw., and *C. khazani*, Edw., both of which differ considerably in hypopygial structure, and in having more or less distinct markings on the integument of the pleura.

B.—TWO NEW INDIAN AÆDES.

***Aedes (Skusea) iyengari*, sp. n.**

♀. Closely allied to *A. (S.) punctipes*, Edw., differing as follows:—Abdominal tergites 5 and 6 each with a pair of small white admedian dorsal spots. Sternites all with broad apical black bands; sternite 7 all black. Legs with more numerous creamy white spots: all the femora with two or three small spots on the antero-dorsal surface before the subapical white ring; front femora also with some spots on the antero-ventral surface; all the tibiae with 5-7 spots, almost forming narrow rings; first segment of all tarsi, apart from the narrow white basal and apical rings, with two small dorsal spots, not forming rings; second, third and fourth tarsal segments narrowly whitish at the base. No white scales at the base of the fifth longitudinal vein of the wings.

BENGAL: Meenglas, Jalpaiguri, 26.vi. and 6.viii.1921 (*M. O. T. Iyengar*), 2 ♀ (type in British Museum, paratype in Mr. Iyengar's collection).

The sum total of the small differences from *A. (S.) punctipes*, Edw., seems to be sufficient to differentiate these specimens as a distinct species, which I have pleasure in dedicating to its discoverer.

***Aedes (Aëdimorphus) nummatus*, sp. n.**

Head clothed entirely with broad flat scales; in the ♂ these are uniformly light ochreous brown, in the ♀ mostly dark brown, but with the eye-margins and a median longitudinal stripe ochreous brown. Orbital bristles black. Clypeus and tori dark brown, bare. Proboscis entirely dark-scaled, rather slender, equalling the front femora. Palpi dark-scaled, in ♂ slender, hardly more than half as long as the proboscis, segmentation indistinct; in ♀ about one-seventh as long as the proboscis. *Thorax* with dark brown integument; bristles black, numerous and long on the posterior

half of the scutum. Mesonotal scales narrow, dark brown, but the anterior half mainly occupied by a large, nearly round, silvery-white patch which does not quite reach the front margin. Prothoracic lobes, pro-epimera and lateral lobes of scutellum with small curved dark brown scales; median lobe of scutellum with broad flat scales, light brown in ♂, dark brown in ♀. An elongate patch of flat whitish scales on the sternopleura, and another small patch on the upper part of the mesepimera. About 4-6 post-spiracular bristles, no lower mesepimeral. *Abdomen* dark brown above, ochreous below. Hypopygium small; side-pieces a little over twice as long as broad, scaly but without definite tufts of hairs or scales, basal lobes rather long and with a few bristly hairs; claspers divided two-thirds of the way to the base into two equal, slender, slightly curved, bare prongs, the inner one bearing a moderately long terminal spine; lobes of aedeagus with several large teeth on the outer side towards the tip. Seventh segment in ♀ large, eighth small and retracted, cerci short. *Legs* dark brown, undersides of femora and tibiae light, hind femora with the basal half almost all pale, also the outer side as far as the tip, no definite knee-spots. Claws all toothed, in the ♀ the teeth very small. *Wings* with the scales all dark, outstanding ones linear. Bases of fork-cells level, upper fork in ♀ about one and a half times as long as its stem. Cross-veins separated by twice the length of the posterior. Wing-length, 2.8 mm. (♂)—3.2 mm. (♀).

BENGAL: Meenglas, Jalpaiguri, reared from larvae in tree-hole, vii.1922 (*M. O. T. Iyengar*). Type ♂ in the British Museum, allotype ♀ in Mr. Iyengar's collection.

This extremely distinct species can hardly be compared with any other in the Oriental fauna. The resemblance in coloration to *A. niveus*, Ludlow, is strong, but entirely superficial, since the structure of the male hypopygium proves that the species belongs to the subgenus *Aëdimorphus* and not to *Finlaya*. In thoracic adornment, and in the reduced male palpi, it differs strikingly from all other species of the subgenus *Aëdimorphus* hitherto known.

C.—CULICINE MOSQUITOS FROM NEW BRITAIN.

A small collection of Culicine mosquitoes made by Mr. G. F. Hill in the island of New Britain was forwarded by him to the Imperial Bureau of Entomology for determination. So far as I am aware these are the first mosquitos recorded from this island. The following species were represented:—

- Megarhinus inornatus*, Walker. Rabaul and Mambung River.
- Uranotaenia nigerrima*, Taylor. Rabaul.
- Rachionotomyia quasiornata*, Taylor. Toma.
- Armigeres lacuum*, Edw. Beining district; Toma, 2,800 ft.
- Aedes funereus* var. *ornatus*, Theo. Rabaul.
- Lutzia halifaxii* (Theo.) var. Rabaul.
- Culex sitiens*, Wied. Rabaul.
- C. fatigans*, Wied. Rabaul.
- C. calaractarum*, sp. n.
- C. (Culicomyia) muticus*, sp. n.
- C. (Lophoceratomyia) fraudator*, Theo. var. Rabaul.

Megarhinus inornatus, Walker.

This species has been known up to the present only from Walker's types, which were redescribed by Theobald. The specimens collected by Mr. Hill in New Britain (Rabaul and Nambung River) agree well with these types, in so far as comparison is possible owing to the damaged condition of the latter. By my key to the Oriental species they would run down to *M. splendens*, Wied., to which and to *M. subulifer*, Dol., they are very closely allied, differing in the following particulars:—Scales of mesonotum more brilliantly metallic, especially at the sides. Scales of pro-epimera mostly metallic green instead of mostly white, the white ones being confined to the

lower fourth. The purple ventral stripe of the abdomen is considerably broadened on the fourth segment, and also at the bases of the third, fifth, sixth and seventh segments. The first as well as the second hind tarsal segment of the female has a well-marked basal white ring. Theobald's statement that the tarsi of the male are all dark is incorrect; even in the type there are traces left of white rings at the bases of the first two segments of the middle and hind tarsi, and these are quite distinct in the fresh specimens. The colour of the dorsal surface of the abdomen in the fresh specimens shades from green at the base to blue towards the apex.

Rachionotomyia quasiornata (Taylor), var.

Closely related to *R. bimaculipes* (Theo.) (New Guinea), *R. purpurata*, Edw. (Fiji) and *R. quasiornata* (Taylor) (North Queensland), but distinguished as follows:—Integument of thorax entirely orange, somewhat shining, except for a small area of the sternopleura which is blackish, but this is obscured by the covering of silvery scales; there is also a small dark brown area in the middle of the postnotum. Scales of pronotal lobes small, flat, black; of pro-epimera very narrow, straight, black; of mesonotum narrow, straight, black. Abdomen without purple gloss; the lateral silvery markings of the fifth and sixth tergites just meeting dorsally. All femora with two distinct silvery spots, and with an anterior line on the basal third, this line being creamy on the front femora, silvery on the middle and hind pairs.

NEW BRITAIN: Toma, 1922 (*G. F. Hill*), 2 ♀.

Differs from *R. bimaculipes*, Theo., chiefly in the orange mesonotum, and from the type of *R. quasiornata*, Taylor, chiefly in the silvery basal lines on the hind femora, this last probably being a matter of individual variation.

Armigeres lacuum, Edw.

The numerous specimens collected by Mr. Hill agree in nearly all respects with my description, the sexual difference in the thoracic coloration being confirmed, but the underside of the abdomen is almost entirely white, except for the sternite of the seventh segment, which is black.

Culex (Culiciomyia) muticus, sp. n.

Head with a very narrow rim of small greyish-white flat scales round the orbits, the greater part of the vertex clothed with dark brown upright and light brown decumbent narrow scales. Proboscis and palpi dark brown. Palpi of ♂ exceeding the proboscis by the last segment only, which is slightly longer than the penultimate, both having abundant long hairs; long segment towards the tip on the outer side with about six extremely long and slender scales, with hair-like points and slightly broadened in the middle. Palpi of ♀ distinctly two-segmented, terminal segment a little longer than the clypeus. Antennae normal. *Thorax* with the usual dull greyish integument and very small scales on the mesonotum, the scales reddish-brown in colour. Prothoracic lobes ochreous, without scales. Pleura somewhat shining, the only scales being a very few flat whitish ones on the sternopleura. One long lower mesepimeral bristle. A rather ill-defined dark brownish stripe extending from the pro-epimera to the base of the mesepimera, where it is somewhat darker, though not black; a short brown stripe across the middle of the sternopleura; remainder of pleural integument and also the coxae light greenish. *Abdomen* blackish dorsally, the segments with greyish-white basal bands of almost even width, these bands just involving the apices of some of the segments. Hypopygium: side-pieces not markedly swollen, moderately hairy. Lobe rather indistinctly divided, one division carrying a pair of straight rods, one stout and one slender, in close juxtaposition, the other division carrying a similar pair of curved spines; at the base of the lobe proximally is a single spine, and distally a rather broad but pointed pale leaf with a dark brown curved blade lying close below it. Clasper bent about the

middle, with a patch of hairs near the base and a strongly developed spiny crest on the middle third. Tenth sternites with a well-marked but slender basal arm and a semicircular flat expansion on the outer side near the tip; crest comprising about six rather stout blunt-tipped spines in a comb-like row, and a group of about 15 shorter pointed spines internally. Lobes of mesosome simple, devoid of teeth, somewhat sickle-shaped, the tips pointing outwards. Legs dark brown, femora whitish beneath; hind femora dark almost to the base above, pale to the tips on the outer side. Front and mid claws of ♂ toothed. Wings with brown scales, the outstanding ones almost linear. Bases of fork-cells practically level. Cross-veins separated by nearly twice the length of the posterior. Wing-length, 3-3.2 mm.

NEW BRITAIN: Rabaul, 1922 (G. F. Hill). Cotypes, 1 ♂ 1 ♀ in the British Museum, 1 ♂ 1 ♀ returned to the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine.

This species is very closely related to *Culicomyia annulata*, Theobald, known from Borneo, Malay and Ceylon. Externally the only obvious difference is that the dark spot at the base of the mesepimera is deep black in *C. annulata*, but dark brown only in the present species. The male hypopygia are also similar in most respects, but apart from some other small differences, the lobes of the mesosome in *C. annulata* are differently constructed and have a conspicuous row of teeth below. From a comparison of types, I have considered *C. annulata* to be a synonym of *C. pulla*, Theobald, described from a single female from New Guinea. It is possible that fresh material from New Guinea may prove the present species to be the true *C. pulla*, in which case the name *muticus* would fall as a synonym, and a new name be required for the Oriental form, *annulata* being preoccupied.

***Culex cataractarum*, sp. n.**

Head with a conspicuous rim of small flat white scales round the eye-margins; small flat dark ones behind these; nape clothed with narrow dark scales. Bristles all dark. Clypeus yellowish, unscaled. Palpi alike in the two sexes, exceeding the clypeus by a little more than its length, unsegmented, clothed with dark scales and rather numerous dark hairs. Proboscis dark-scaled, a little longer than the front femora, very slightly swollen at the tip in the ♂. Antennae of ♂ inconspicuously plumose, slightly longer than the proboscis; last two segments together a little over half as long as the remainder of the flagellum; flagellar segments (except the last two) slender, cylindrical, almost four times as long as broad, with a median verticil of only five or six long hairs, and several short hairs round the tip. Tori ochreous brown, unscaled. Antennae of ♀ normal. *Thorax* with the integument mostly dark brown; prothoracic lobes, a narrow ill-defined band extending back from them to the wing base, and the lower half of the sternopleura light ochreous. Scutum and scutellum with long black bristles and scanty narrow, curved, dark brown scales. Prothoracic lobes and pleura without scales, the latter somewhat shining. Four pro-epimeral, two or three upper mesepimeral and no lower mesepimeral bristles. *Abdomen* dark brown, unmarked, venter very little lighter than the dorsum. Hypopygium ochreous. Side-pieces moderately hairy, without scales; lobe simple, with only three long and slightly bent rods; leaf absent. Clasper rather short, somewhat sickle-shaped, tapering, extreme tip slightly recurved, without crest or fringe. Tenth sternites without basal arm, tips with only about six spines, three of them stout and blunt-tipped. Halves of mesosome simple, smooth, bluntly pointed. Legs dark brown, lower surfaces of femora whitish, also the lateral surfaces of the hind femora almost to the tip. First segment of hind tarsus longer than the tibia. Larger claw of front legs of ♂ with a median tooth, other claws all simple. Wings with the scales all brown, those towards the tip of the wing spatulate. Upper fork-cell more than twice as long as its stem. Cross-veins separated by nearly twice the length of the posterior. Halteres with pale stem and dark knob. Wing-length, 2-2.5 mm.

NEW BRITAIN: Rabaul, 1922; on rocks under waterfall (*G. F. Hill*). Cotypes, 4♂ 1♀ in the British Museum, 2♂ returned to the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine.

This is the first species of *Culex* with short male palpi to be described from the Australasian region. It differs conspicuously from the five known Oriental species in the structure of the male antennae and hypopygium and in the scaling of the head.

D.—A NEW HODGESIA FROM NEW GUINEA.

Hodgesia spoliata, sp. n.

Head mostly black, but with a rather broad and continuous bluish-silvery margin to the eyes, somewhat broader at the vertex. Eyes separated by an unscaled line. Proboscis and palpi blackish, the latter scarcely reaching beyond the clypeus. *Thorax* with the integument almost entirely shining black, the lower part of the pro-epimera greyish, the scutellum brown, and a small area round the roots of the wings ochreous. Mesonotal scales small, narrow and black. Scutellar scales small, flat, black, difficult to see. Prothoracic lobes entirely covered with silvery scales; a large patch of silvery scales at the base of the mesepimera and pteropleura, and a small one close to the mid coxae. One strong black lower mesepimeral bristle; the usual two long pro-epimeral bristles also present. *Abdomen* greenish black dorsally, somewhat lighter ventrally, devoid of silvery markings. *Legs* purplish black; coxae pale yellow; front and mid femora pale on about the basal half, hind femora whitish except at the extreme tip, the dark scales of which extend basally for only a short distance on the upper surface. *Wings* normal; *Rs* with a short spur at the angle; upper fork-cell scarcely longer than its stem; bases of the two forks almost level. Halteres blackish, lighter at the base. Wing-length, 2 mm.

NEW GUINEA: Mekeo district, 1922 (*G. F. Hill*). Cotypes, 3♀ in the British Museum, 1♀ returned to the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine.

By the colour of the abdomen and legs this is allied to *H. malayi*, Leic., and *H. ampyx*, Dyar, but differs in the almost entirely black thorax.

E.—A NEW RACHIONOTOMYIA FROM TASMANIA.

Rachionotomyia cephasi, sp. n.

♀. *Head* dull purplish brown; a dull white patch on each side, not continued round the front. Clypeus dark brown, bare. Palpi dark brown, exceeding the clypeus by about twice its length. Proboscis blackish, slender, equalling the front femora or the abdomen in length. *Thorax* with the integument almost uniformly dark brown, the scutellum lighter. Pronotal scales flat and white; pro-epimeral flat and dark brown; mesonotal (scutal) dull dark brown, rather narrow and slightly curved; scutellar broad, flat, dark brown; pleura with a band of flat white scales extending longitudinally below the margin of the mesonotum, and a patch occupying the posterior edge of the sternopleura and the lower part of the mesepimera, the space between these scaly areas being bare. One (?) pro-epimeral bristle; three (?) spiracular; three or four sternopleural, one being long and dark, the others short and pale. Mesonotal bristles present but rather short. *Abdomen* dark brown above, whitish below. *Legs* dark brown, under sides of femora somewhat lighter towards the base; all femora with small white knee-spots, most distinct on the hind legs. Front and mid tibiae with small white apical spots; hind tibiae with a conspicuous white apical patch on the outer side, longer than the diameter of the tip of the tibia. Mid tarsi indistinctly paler towards the tips. Hind tarsi with the last two segments entirely white, also the tip of the third, a white ventral line extending the full length of the second and third segments. Claws normal. *Wings* with all the scales dark brown, outstanding ones

long and linear, the others broad and rather large. Upper fork-cell over three times as long as its stem, its base nearer the base of the wing than that of the lower. Wing-length, 4 mm.

TASMANIA: Mole Creek, Feb. 1923 (*Cephas L. Edwards*). Type and one other ♀ in the British Museum.

This species, though apparently nearly allied to *R. atra* (Taylor) of New Guinea, is very distinct from this and the other Australian species, indeed from all other species of the genus (unless the peculiar *argyropus*, Walker, of New Zealand is to be referred here) by the coloration of the hind tarsi. In the length of the proboscis it is intermediate between true *Rachionotomyia* and *Rachisoura*, thus rendering the final union of these genera still more probable. The species is named in honour of the writer's father, whose small collection of insects, made during a short visit to Tasmania, contains several interesting additions to the British Museum collections.

F.—A NEW TAENIORHYNCHUS FROM PALESTINE.

Taeniorhynchus (Coquillettia) buxtoni, sp. n.

Head with the decumbent scales pale ochreous, upright scales dark brown. Proboscis and palpi entirely dark-scaled; proboscis slightly longer than the front femora; palpi about one-fifth as long as the proboscis. *Thorax* with reddish brown integument. Scales of prothoracic lobes, pro-epimera and mesonotum golden brown; lighter on and in front of the scutellum. Pleurae with small patches of dull ochreous flat scales; about 6 pro-epimeral and 3-4 lower mesepimeral bristles. *Abdomen* mostly dark-scaled dorsally, with a more or less pronounced purple gloss; tergites with lateral basal creamy spots, which tend to form narrow complete bands, especially on the second segment; no pale scales scattered on the dark parts. *Legs* mostly dark, the tarsi entirely so, the dark scales with a slight purple gloss. Femora ochreous beneath and towards the base, not distinctly mottled. Femora and tibiae with conspicuous creamy apical spots. Mid and hind tibiae with indications of a narrow longitudinal pale stripe on the anterior or outer side. *Wings* with the scales all dark, and on the average markedly narrower than in *T. richiardi*. Bases of fork-cells practically level. Halteres ochreous, knot somewhat darker. Wing-length, 4 mm.

PALESTINE: Huleh, Jordan Valley, 3.ix.1922 (*P. A. Buxton*). Cotypes, 4 ♀, presented to the British Museum by the Imperial Bureau of Entomology.

This species differs in many details of coloration, notably in the dark tarsi, from *T. richiardi* (Fic.), the only species previously known from the Palaearctic region.