

NOTES ON AND DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF  
AUSTRALIAN DIPTERA.

By JOHN R. MALLOCH.

(1935)

Family SYRPEIDAE.

GRAPTOMYZA Wledemann.

Nova Dipt. Gen., 16, 1820.

GRAPTOMYZA DODDI Ferguson.

Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., li., 542, 1926.

The female before me has the fourth tergite with a central black line and the third with a trace of a similar line, but the peculiar black W-shaped mark on the posterior third of the mesonotum apparently places it here rather than in *plumifer*, Ferguson. I have carefully compared the two Australian species recorded here with the Oriental species of the genus available to me in the United States National Museum and consider they are congeneric. The hind tibiae have usually a group of black setulae on the apical half of the anterior surface in all the species, and this is particularly evident in the species now recorded.

Habitat: Queensland, Kuranda (F. P. Dodd). One female.

GRAPTOMYZA FLAVICOLLIS Ferguson.

Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., li., 541, 1926.

This very pretty little species, originally described from a single female from Cairns district, is the only one in which the hind femur has distinct anteroventral spines on the apical half, as recorded by Ferguson. This is not sufficient to justify the removal of the species to another genus. The hind tibial setulae are very indistinct in the female now before me.

One of the most striking characters of the genus, and one met with in all its species, consists of the oval discal depression of the scutellum.

Habitat: Queensland, Eungella, near Mackay; altitude, 2,000 feet; March, 1929 (F. H. Taylor).

Family SAPROMYZIDAE.

I present below the descriptions of two new species and record the occurrence in Queensland of the peculiar genus *Ichthyomyia* previously known exclusively from New Guinea.

SAPROMYZA XENIA, n. sp.

♀.—Head black, the ocellar triangle and frontal orbits glossy, the interfrontalia shining, and showing yellowish below the dark surface sheen, as does also the face and to a more marked degree the lower occiput, the face grey dusted and slightly shining, faintly convex. Anterior orbital short and fine, not as long as the short ocellars or post-verticals. Antennae normal, the longest hairs on the arista barely half as long as the width of third antennal segment.

Thorax glossy black, with hardly a trace of dust, the scutellum velvety deep black, the apex shining black. Mesonotum with three pairs of strong postsutural dorsocentrals, six irregular series of fine intradorsocentral hairs, one strong pair of prescutellar acrostichals, no bristle lateral of the supra-alar, two notopleurals, and two postalars; sternopleurals two; scutellars four.

Legs testaceous yellow, fore coxae and femora black. Fore femur

the larvae are merely scavengers, feeding on the excretions of the scale insect. Very little is known of the larval habits of the members of the family, and it would be of interest to discover the habits of this and related genera as the records of the few Sapromyzidae available point to their being scavengers, the larvae feeding on or in decaying leaves or humus.

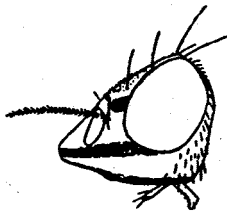


Fig. 1, Head of *Ichthyomyia cyprinus*, in profile.

Habitat: Holotype, N.S.W.; Sydney, 21.8.21 (Health Department).

Family DROSOPHILIDAE.

*LEUCOPHENGIA REGINA*, n. sp.

A rather large species belonging to that section in which the halteres are entirely yellow and the wings distinctly spotted.

Head dull fawn coloured, the surface with slight whitish dusting, the ocellar spot fuscous, upper occiput shining dark brown; antennae and palpi pale brownish-yellow. Frons longer than wide, almost parallel-sided, the three orbital bristles quite strong, in a straight series and about equally spaced, the proclinate one at about one-third from anterior margin; outer pair of verticals longer than inner, the latter as long as the upper orbital and slightly longer than the ocellars, the postverticals rather short; surface with some minute spare hairs; gena linear; vibrissa single, well developed; face with a broad low central upper carina; antennae rather large, third segment rounded at apex; arista with about nine upper and four lower long hairs and some short hairs on apical half in front; palpi quite long but only slightly club-shaped; eyes bare.

Thorax fawn coloured, but slightly shining, the mesonotum without a trace of vittae, becoming testaceous yellow on sides, where it is similar in colour to the pleurae; scutellum darker brown than mesonotum, pale yellow on sides at base and around the apex. Dorsocentrals 2 pairs, pre-scutellar acrostichals well developed, intradorsocentral hairs strong, in about 8 rather irregular series; sternopleurals 2; the 4 scutellars subequal in length.

Legs testaceous-yellow. Mid femur with an almost complete series of anterior bristles, mid tibia with a complete series of posterodorsal setulae that are rather bristle-like.

Wings hyaline, with five dark brown spots and shading in some of the cells (Fig. 2). Halteres entirely brownish yellow.

Abdomen brownish yellow, slightly shining, the tergites with numerous brown spots and irregular discal markings, each with a series of black dots at apex, one at base of each of the apical bristles.

Length: 3-3.5 mm.

Habitat: Queensland, Mt. Molloy (F. H. Taylor). Holotype ♂, allotype, and 8 paratypes.



Fig. 2, Wing of *Leucophengia regina*.

This very pretty species is readily distinguished from any already described from Australia, or elsewhere, by the wing markings.