

NATURAL - HISTORY NOTES.

A New Species of Drosophilid Fly, by David Miller. (1921)

Upon going through a collection of various species of *Agaric*, Mr. E. H. Atkinson, of the Government Biological Laboratories, found several specimens infested by dipterous larvae, which he handed to me for identification. On these larvae being bred out it was found that they belonged to a new but common species of the genus *Leucophenga* (fam. Drosophilidae); this species is herewith named after Mr. Atkinson.

Leucophenga atkinsoni n. sp.

A small brownish-yellow fly with pinkish eyes when alive, and several transverse yellowish bands alternated with brown ones across the abdomen.

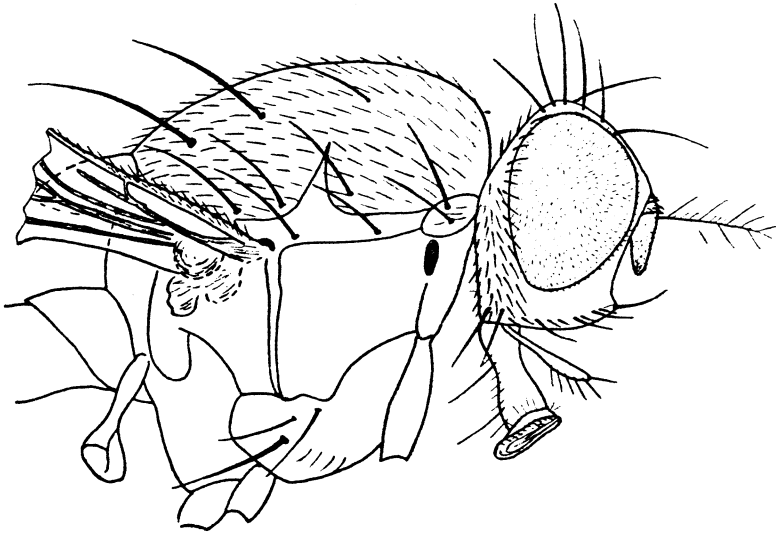


FIG. 1.—*Leucophenga atkinsoni*; head and thorax (side view).

Eyes broadly dichoptic, minutely haired, pinkish-red when alive but becoming dull red after death; 1st and 2nd antennal joints yellowish-brown and bristly; 3rd joint blackish-brown and pubescent; arista feathered with long hairs above and below and with a row of very short ones above (fig. 1); front and vertex yellowish-brown, chaetotaxy as shown in fig. 2; face, narrow parafacials, and epistoma tawny; clypeus distinct, yellowish-brown but somewhat silvery at times and with two narrow transverse darker bands; cheeks, oral margin, and occiput yellowish-brown but with silvery reflections; oral vibrissae present, the remaining vestiture shown in fig. 1; proboscis pale yellowish-brown with long and short delicate hairs on lower side, labella clothed with delicate hairs; palpi clavate, brownish-yellow, and bristly at apex and on lower side distally.

Thorax brown clothed with numerous rows of very small black bristles on the dorsum, the chaetotaxy of which is shown in figs. 3 and 1; sternopleurae with three large bristles above and delicate ones below (fig. 1);

halteres pale yellow. Legs tawny and bristly; large bristles distally on anterior femora; all the tibiae with apical bristles; coxae with long bristles; posterior protarsus a little longer than the following joint. Wings clear, vein R1 very short appearing as vein Sc and meeting the costa considerably before the middle; costa ends at vein R4+5; vein Sc rudimentary and evanescent distally; cells M and 1st M2 confluent; cell Cu present.

Abdomen bristly, the bristles longer along posterior margins of the segments; each segment tawny but with black areas as shown in fig. 4.

Length of ♂ and ♀ 3 mm.

Syntypes No. 1240.

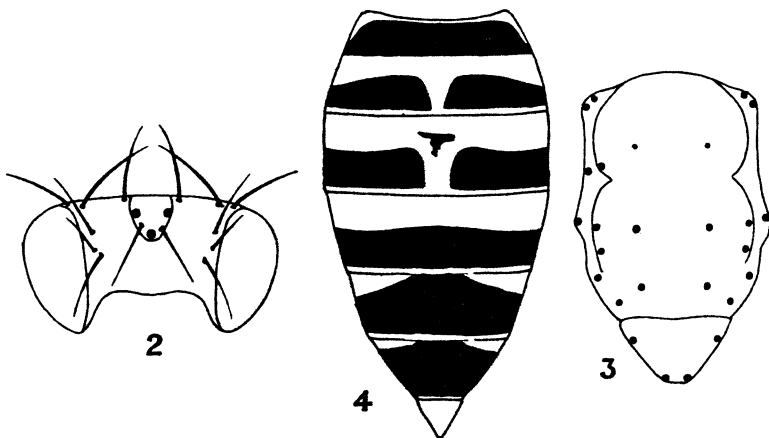


FIG. 2.—*Leucophenga atkinsoni*; chaetotaxy of head (dorsal view).
 FIG. 3.—*Leucophenga atkinsoni*; chaetotaxy of dorsum of thorax.
 FIG. 4.—*Leucophenga atkinsoni*; abdomen.

Habitat.—A very common fly, particularly during the autumn; it may be found in large numbers in shaded and moist places. The larvae, which breed in various species of *Agaric*, are pearl-white with a shiny black head; on the underside of the abdominal segments is a transverse cup-like ridge armed with minute curved black spines, acting as locomotory organs; the posterior and anterior "lip" of the posterior and anterior "prolegs" respectively is unarmed. The larva when fully grown is elongate and narrow, and measures up to 8 mm. in length. Pupation occurs in the ground amongst decaying vegetation.

The Occurrence of *Cylichnella arachis* (Q. & G.) in New Zealand Waters, by Miss M. K. Mestayer, Dominion Museum.

In the type molluscan collection at the Dominion Museum there are four specimens of *Cylichnella* marked as types of T. W. Kirk's *Cylichna zealandica*. These were recently examined by Mr. C. Hedley, who identified the three smallest as *Cylichnella thetidis* (Hedley), and the largest as *Cylichnella arachis* (Q. & G.). The latter proves by measurement to be the type of *Cylichna zealandica* T. W. Kirk.* All four specimens were obtained at Waikanae.

Suter states that *Cylichnella arachis* (Q. & G.)† does not occur in New Zealand waters; but this is a mistake, as a careful examination of material

* *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, vol. 12, p. 307, 1880.

† *Man. N.Z. Moll.*, p. 520, 1913.