

species, but the insufficient material seemed to make it more prudent to unite them provisionally. Both species are very similar, and the only palpable difference is the hind margin of the hind wings sinuated in the apical half of *M. mobilis*, and convex in *M. immaculatus*. I have raised myself both species, and have the full grown larvæ in alcohol.

(To be Continued.)

## THE CHALCID GENUS RILEYA.

BY L. O. HOWARD, WASHINGTON, D. C.

An interesting interference in the adoption of the generic name *Rileya* has recently taken place between Mr. Ashmead and myself, and, as I am of the opinion that this name should apply to the genus of Encyrtinæ defined by myself, rather than to the genus of Eurytominae defined by Mr. Ashmead, I state in this note the circumstances of the interference, and print in full the paper in which my description occurred.

At the meeting of the Entomological Society of Washington, held June 7, 1887, I read the paper in question and handed the manuscript, after reading, to Mr. Smith, the Secretary, with the request that he publish the generic description in full in his abstract of our proceedings in Entomologica Americana. June 9 this periodical for June was received, and I found upon reading Mr. Ashmead's "revised generic table of the Eurytominae," published upon pages 41 to 43, that he had decided to use the same name for a genus of that sub-family. The name is there given, *not as a new genus*, but as one already described, and the few words given to it in the table fail to sufficiently characterize it. Noting these points, I did not recall my description from Mr. Smith, and it was published in the July number of the same periodical (received July 5). I inferred from the fact that Mr. Ashmead entered the genus as "*Rileya* Ashm.," and not "*Rileya* n. g.," that his description had been sent away for publication, but had not appeared, and this inference was shown to be correct when upon July 14, first copies were received of Bulletin No. 3 of the Kansas Experiment Station, which contained in an appendix Mr. Ashmead's full description of this genus.

I am individually inclined to think, therefore, that as Mr. Ashmead



did not give his few words in the generic table to *Rileya* as a new genus, his mention of it there amounts simply to the mention of a manuscript name, and as the full description of *Rileya* Ashmead as a new genus was not published for some days subsequent to the publication of my genus, the latter should bear the name. Were this a mere matter of credit for a genus, I would not waste words upon it, and were it any other name I would give way without hesitation to my friend Mr. Ashmead, but my desire to establish the genus in Professor Riley's name, and to apply it to this extremely interesting and beautiful form, is so great that I am led to assert my claim, which of course will stand or fall upon its merits.

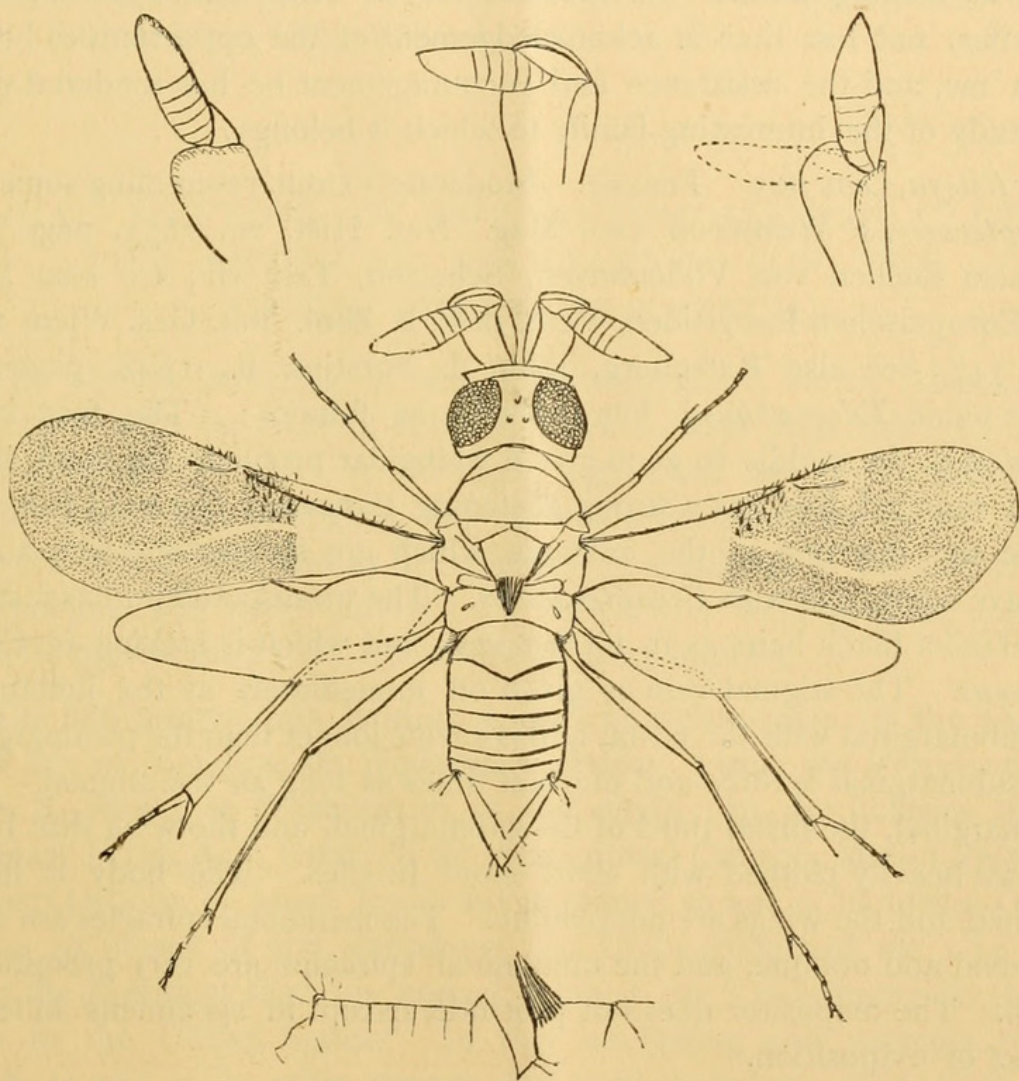
The original paper as read before the Entomological Society of Washington, June 7, is as follows :—

“One of the most beautiful insects I have ever seen was sent in considerable numbers to Dr. Riley, from California, by Mr. Koebele, in 1886. It was captured by Mr. Koebele, as stated in his notes, while searching for a species of *Dactylopius*, which lives upon the Passion Flower at Los Angeles. His account of the actions of the little parasites upon this plant is interesting enough to quote : ‘A number of the parasites were collected on a plant, and some of them were noticed depositing their eggs. Busily they ran up and down the branches, and if they met with a grown insect, this was touched from behind with their antennæ from five to fifteen seconds ; then either the parasite would run off or turn around and thrust an egg into the insect, which, when the parasite approaches, keeps perfectly quiet ; but if operated on, will turn the posterior part of its body rapidly around in a circle, and its enemy will, after the egg is left, walk quietly off without facing its victim again.’

“This little parasite, although only about a millimeter and a-half in length, is a perfect gem in color. It is a fleck of brilliant green-gold, and its structure is very strange to one not familiar with the peculiar group of genera to which it belongs. The remarkable antennæ, with their concave leaf-like scape, peculiar pedicel, and broadly flattened flagellum carry to an extreme a conformation seen only with the three genera—*Mira*, *Anusia* and *Cerapterocerus*—of the sub-family *Encyrtinæ* of the *Chalcididæ*. I have always supposed that the preliminary tapping of a Bark-louse, with the antennæ, as described by Mr. Koebele above, and as often noticed with other parasites, was for the purpose of ascertaining by a tactile sense



or by sound whether the Bark-louse was already inhabited by a parasitic larva, and it is altogether likely that this extraordinary development of the antennæ in these genera is of use in this direction, and was developed in response to some such need, for it will be noticed that this conformation occurs in the female sex only, and that the males of such of these genera as have known males have antennæ of the ordinary pedicellate whorled type.



RILEYA SPLENDENS.

“The relationships of this California parasite, although it forms a new and in some respects abnormal genus, are plainly with the European genus *Cerapterocerus* of Westwood (*Telegraphus* Ratz.), of which two species have been described, viz., *C. mirabilis* Westwood, and *C. corniger* Walker, of both of which we have authentic specimens in the collection of the National Museum, through the courtesy of Dr. Mayr, of Vienna. The



former has been reared from a *Lecanium* on peach by Tschek, from a *Lecanium* on plum by Kollar and Rogenhofer, and from coccids on grass by Kollar and Kriechbaumer; while the latter has been reared by Kriechbaumer from coccids on plum and grass.

"I have, with Dr. Riley's kind permission, dedicated this remarkable and beautiful genus to him, in acknowledgement of the work which he has done in making known the life-histories of American hymenopterous parasites, not less than in acknowledgement of the opportunities he has given me, and the assistance and encouragement he has rendered me in the study of the interesting family to which it belongs.

"*Riley*a, Gen. nov. Female. Moderately stout, resembling somewhat *Cerapterocerus* Westwood (see Mag. Nat. Hist. vi., 1833, page 495; see also Snellen van Vollenhoven, Schetsen, Tab. vii; see also Mayr, Die Europäischen Encyrtiden, Verh. d. k. k. Zool. Bot. Ges. Wien, 1875, page 747; see also Ratzeburg, Ichn. d. Forstins. ii., 1848, page 152, under name *Telegraphus*), but differing as follows: The face is not elbowed in the middle so as to give a triangular profile to the head, but is gently rounded, and has a strong glistening transverse clean-cut ridge just above the insertion of the antennæ, which are stouter and with a more concave scape than with *Cerapterocerus*. The mesoscutellum has a strong tuft of erect black hairs as in *Chiloneurus*, but which is lacking in *Cerapterocerus*. The stigmal vein is given off immediately at the juncture of the submarginal with the costa, and is a trifle longer than the postmarginal. The submarginal is three and one-half times as long as the stigmal. The postmarginal, the distal third of the submarginal, and the wing disc below this last heavily clothed with short stout bristles. The body is highly polished and the wings are not hyaline. The metanotal spiracles are large, long-oval and oblique, and the abdominal spiracles are very prominently tufted. The ovipositor does not protrude, except in specimens killed in the act of oviposition.

"*Riley*a *splendens*, Sp. nov. Female. Length, 1.63 mm.; expanse, 3.8 mm.; greatest width of fore-wing, 0.53 mm. Front with a delicate round-oval punctation; cheeks with delicate longitudinal striation, and a perfectly smooth band bordering the eyes; mesoscutum very delicately shagreened; scutellum and scapulæ smooth; mesopleura and abdomen smooth. General color metallic green, the most brilliant reflections given off from the cheeks and the proepimera; antennæ also with metallic reflections,



but darker in general effect ; mouth-parts honey-yellow ; abdomen bluish-metallic below ; all legs metallic ; joints 2, 3 and 4 of tarsi honey-yellow. Distal two-thirds of wings (fore) dark brown ; the proximal limit of the color very definite, and the color deepest at this point, becoming lighter at tip of wing ; a narrow, longitudinal, slightly curved, hyaline line arises at the middle of the proximal border of the infuscation, and extends rather more than half way to the tip of the wing. Described from many female specimens. Los Angeles, Cal., A. Koebele."

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#### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL CLUB OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

The annual gathering of the Entomologists of North America, in connection with the meeting of the A. A. A. S., took place this year in the city of Cleveland, Ohio. While much regret was felt at the absence of many eminent Entomologists who have always taken an active part in the work of the Club, and at the consequent smallness of the attendance, the meeting was much enjoyed by those who were present, and the valuable papers read were received with great interest.

The first session was held at 9 a.m. in a class-room of the Central High School Building on Wednesday, August 15th ; the President, Mr. John B. Smith, of Washington, in the chair. In the absence of the Secretary (Prof. A. J. Cook, of the Agricultural College, Mich.) Professor Herbert Osborn, of Ames, Iowa, was requested to act in his place. Owing to the smallness of the attendance the Club adjourned till 1.15 p.m., when the President read his annual address on "Entomological Collections in the United States." In this interesting and valuable paper, which, as well as the other papers read at the meetings of the Club, will, we understand, be published in full in *Entomologica Americana*, the writer gave an account of all the great collections, both public and private, in the United States. Among general collections he especially mentioned those of Mr. Bolter, of Chicago, and Mr. Henry Edwards, of New York ; in Coleoptera he specified the collections of Dr. Horn, of Philadelphia, Mr. Ulke, of Washington, and Messrs. Hubbard and Schwarz, and Lieut. Casey ; in Lepidoptera those of Messrs. Henry Edwards, Neumogen,



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