

## On Some Centipeds from Northern Alaska

By RALPH V. CHAMBERLIN

The centipeds reported upon in this paper were taken by Dr. Neal A. Weber in August of 1948. One species, *Oabius* sp., was taken at Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada, and three others from Northern Alaska on the north front of the Brooks range, which, as Dr. Weber notes, "must be a formidable barrier to life coming from the south." The latitude  $68^{\circ}20'$  is near the most northerly limit known for chilopods.

Previously reported from localities near or north of the Arctic Circle were the following from the vicinity of the Yenesei River in Siberia, recorded by Stuxberg in 1876.<sup>1</sup>

*Lithobius nordenskiöldi* Stuxberg ( $71^{\circ}40'$ )

*Lithobius vagabundus* Stuxberg ( $66^{\circ}17'$ )

*Sonibius ostiacorum* (Stuxberg) ( $69^{\circ}15'$ )

*Nampabius sulcipes* (Stuxberg) ( $66^{\circ}17'$ )

From farther east in Siberia at Pitlekay ( $67^{\circ}4' 49''$  N. and  $173^{\circ}23' 2''$  W.) on the north shore of the Chukutski peninsula, collectors on the Vega expedition of 1878-79 secured the following two forms.<sup>2</sup>

*Monotarsobius crassipes holstii* Pocock

*Monotarsobius tricalcaratus* Attems

Taken at Nanamo, which is also on the Chukutski Peninsula, was:

*Arctogeophilus glacialis* Attems

Family LITHOBIIDAE

Genus **ESCIMOBIUS** new

Allied to *Oabius* in having the median and anterior legs with tarsus uniarticulate. It is set apart from *Oabius* principally in

<sup>1</sup> Stuxberg, Anton. On the Myriopoda from Siberia and Waigatsch Island collected during the Expedition of Prof. Nordenskiöld, 1875. Ann. & Mag. of Nat. History, April, 1876.

<sup>2</sup> Attems, Carl Grof Attems. Die Myriopoden der Vega Expedition. Arkiv för Zoologi, 1909, vol. 5, no. 3.

having a definite dorsal keel at the distal end of the fifth joint of the penult legs, with the succeeding two joints abruptly and considerably thinner. Fifth article of penult legs lacking a dorsal spine in the male. Articles of antennae 20. Prosternal teeth 2 + 2. Ocelli few, typically in 2 series.

Generotype: *Escimobius cryophilus* new species.

**Escimobius cryophilus** new species

Color of dorsum orange or light chestnut, lighter along mid-dorsal area. Antennae orange and legs yellow.

Antennae short, the articles between the second and ultimate especially short; ultimate article longer than the two preceding taken together.

Ocelli 6 in number, in two series; thus 1 + 2,3. The single ocellus largest, pale, while the others are black.

Prosternal teeth 2 + 2.

Ventral spines of first and second legs 0,0,0,1. Ventral spines of penult legs 0,1,3,3,1; dorsal spines 1,0,2,1,0; claws lost from type. Ventral spines of anal legs 0,1,3,2, (?), the joints beyond fourth lost from type; dorsal spines 1,0,2,0,0.

Coxal pores 2,2,3,3, small and circular.

In the male the fifth joint of the penult legs bears at distal end on mesodorsal line a low keel which runs out toward middle of joint.

A mutilated female, agreeing in general characters, so far as evident, with the male holotype, has the claw of the genital forceps short, relatively broad and entire; its basal spines 2 + 2, acutely conical from base to apex.

Length, about 6 mm.

Locality: ALASKA 68 20' N. lat. and 151 30' W. long. One male taken by Neal A. Weber, August 20, 1948.

**Arebius integrrior** new species

Dorsum brown with a darker, blackish pigment distributed irregularly in a discontinuous median band and along caudal and lateral borders, especially of the more posterior plates. Antennae irregularly infusate. Legs dilute yellow, those of pos-

terior region in particular irregularly infusate, the tarsi a brighter yellow.

Antennae short, articles 20.

Ocelli in two series, typically 3,4, the single ocellus the most caudal of the upper series but not distinctly set off.

Prosternal teeth 2 + 2.

Tarsi of all legs distinctly biarticulate. Ventral spines of first and second legs 0,0,0,0,1; dorsal 0,0,0,1,1. Ventral spines of penult legs 0,1,3,2,(1),1; dorsal 0,0,2,1,0. Ventral spines of anal legs 1,0,2,0,0. Claws of anal and penult legs lost. None of coxae laterally armed. Coxal pores small, 3,4,5,5.

Claw of genital forceps of the female entire, acute; basal spines 2 + 2, these relatively short and thick, the outer one of each pair stouter than the inner one, only a short apical part obtusely acuminate.

Length of female holotype, 9.5 mm.

Locality: ALASKA: 68°20' N., 151°30' W. Female *holotype*, with a female *paratype* and male *allotype* which have lost their posterior legs, taken August 26, 1948 (Nos. 2309 and 2319).

Differing from other species of the genus in lacking a lateral spine on coxae of posterior legs and in the reduced number of ventral spines on the anal legs,—0,1,2,0,0 as against from 0,1,3,2,1 to 0,1,3,3,1 in other species having the claw of the female genital forceps entire.

### **Oabius** sp.

One adult female 6.2 mm. long was taken at Whitehorse, Yukon Terr., Canada, on August 18, 1948 (N. A. Weber No. 2280). Since all the posterior legs are lost from the specimen it is thought unwise to attempt to refer it to a species. It was taken "under loosely buried wood in sandy soil, with second growth pine beside the airport."

### Family SCHENDYLIDAE

#### **Escaryus paucipes** Chamberlin

*Escaryus paucipes* Chamberlin, 1946, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer., 39: 179; \*3,4.

This species was previously known only from the male holotype which was taken by J. C. Chamberlin in August, 1945, at Haines, Alaska. The female here recorded agrees with the male in having the number of pairs of legs 33 and in all other essential features. The cephalic plate, however, differs somewhat in having the sides beyond the caudal third nearly straight or slightly concave instead of more evenly convex.

Locality: ALASKA: 68°20'N., 151°30' W. One male taken August 30, 1948, by Neal A. Weber (No. 2317).

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## Haunts and Habits of the Dragonfly *Oplonaeschna armata*

By ERNEST R. TINKHAM, Box 123, Indio, California

We present here, with the author's permission, some field observations of an interesting dragonfly from the canyons of southeastern Arizona; also an account of a successful shipment of two of its nymphs for a long distance without water. These are extracts from three letters written by Dr. Tinkham to Dr. James G. Needham of Cornell University, to whom the living nymphs were sent. The first letter was written in reply to inquiries concerning *Oplonaeschna*.

*Benson, Arizona, October 16th, 1947.*

On June 14th, 1940, I found two larvae (naiads) of *Oplonaeschna armata* clinging to the under side of a water-logged piece of bark. These were the only ones found. The canyon pools are at the upper edge of what I call the Live Oak Zone of the Upper Sonoran. These pools are formed below big rock boulders and are usually lined with fallen leaves. Some pools are several feet deep and are fed with running water.

After finding the naiads I still had to find a way to transport them safely across the hot desert to Tucson. Years previously in the Big Bend Region of Trans-Pecos Texas I had learned



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