

out New England. Generally distributed, sometimes very common locally. Most numerous in spring and fall months.

127. Hancock's Pygmy Locust, *Acrydium hancocki* Morse.

Known from Randolph, N. H., and northern Maine, in July and August. Taken on damp spots on roadsides and in fields.

128. Obscure Pygmy Locust, *Acrydium arenosum angustum*  
Hancock.

Widely distributed and common locally from eastern Maine and northern Vermont southward. Found in the same haunts as the Ornate Pygmy Locust.

129. Hooded Pygmy Locust, *Paratettix cucullatus* Burmeister.

Common, even abundant locally, in Connecticut in late August. Lives as far north as Alstead, N. H., in the Connecticut valley, and is recorded by Scudder from the vicinity of Boston. It frequents the shores of ponds and streams, resting on sand, mud, or stones.

130. Sedge Pygmy Locust, *Tettigidea lateralis parvipennis* Harris.

Wet, sedgy meadows, springy runs, etc., throughout New England, in every month of the season. Common, sometimes plentiful, especially on sandy loam.

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## NOTES ON SOUTH AFRICAN PHORIDÆ (DIPTERA).

BY CHARLES T. BRUES,

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Dr. L. Peringuey of the South African Museum at Cape Town, recently sent me several specimens of Phoridæ belonging to the Museum collections, one of which is of considerable interest.<sup>1</sup> This is the female of the genus *Conoprosopa* which proves to be almost completely wingless and very highly modified. There is also a very distinct species of *Paraspiniphora* which is here described.

<sup>1</sup> Owing to the conditions brought about by the war and the impossibility of publishing the *Annals of the South African Museum* at the present time, Dr. Peringuey has kindly given me permission to have this short note published in an American journal.



*Paraspiniphora armipes* sp. nov.

♀. Length 4 mm. Black; head, except ocellar space, antennae, fourth segment of abdomen, apex of fifth and ovipositor bright ferruginous; palpi orange yellow; legs pale brownish yellow, the hind femora lined above with black; wings with a pale brownish cast, the venation dull piceous; halteres, extreme postero-lateral corners of mesonotum and extreme base of wing, including veins yellowish white. Front very slightly higher than broad, its bristles strong; post-antennal pair approximate, strongly reclinate; lower row strongly curved downward medially, the median pair considerably further from one another than from the laterals which are well removed from the eye; upper row straight, on the median line twice as far from the lower row as from the ocellar one, consisting of four equidistant bristles, the lateral ones close to the eye; surface of front with scattered minute hairs. Post-ocular cilia much enlarged at upper two-thirds. Cheeks each with a pair of large bristles directed downward and a single small one at the level of the antenna. Antennae small, oval; arista less than twice as long as the front. Palpi large and stout, with strong bristles; proboscis heavily chitinized, hard and shining, as large as one of the palpi. Mesonotum rather elongate, its surface shining; one pair of dorsocentral bristles set at the posterior margin with a series of six small bristles forming a row between them; scutellum short and broad, with four large, equal bristles. Propleura hairy, with a pair of bristles near the base of the coxa and another pair below the spiracle; remainder of pleurae bare except for an area of hairs on the mesopleura anteriorly above. Abdomen bare, except at apex, with the second segment distinctly, but not greatly elongated. Legs rather stout, the posterior femur about one-third as broad as long; front tibia with a bristle at the basal third and a series of five minute, but very distinct ones just before apex; middle tibia with a series of five bristles on the hind edge, the first near the base and the last almost at apex, also with two serial bristles externally near base and with a patch of comb-like hairs near apex; hind tibia with a series of four or five bristles along the hind edge beginning at the basal fifth and extending to the apical third; just outside these with a series of six, four on the basal half and two on the apical half; then with a third series of four on the



front edge (*i. e.*, next the femur extending from just before the middle to the apical fourth; in addition with two spurs and an apical spine opposite these. All the tibial spines stout, but not very long. Wings large, but rather narrow; costal vein extending to the middle, with extremely minute, hair-like bristles; first section nearly four times as long as the second and third together; third vein with a single bristle at the base; fork of third vein scarcely perceptible as the second lies very close to it; fourth vein close to the costal margin, slightly curved on basal half and re-curved equally toward apex; following veins straight, the seventh long. Halteres pale yellow.

Type from Durban, Cape Colony (Marley), April, 1915. Type in the South African Museum.

In the armature of the tibiae this species differs from any other hitherto described from any part of the world and will be readily recognized by these characters alone.

*Conoprosopa* Becker.

1909 Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris, p. 113.

1910 Brues, Psyche, Vol. 17, p. 34 (*Coryptilomyia*).

1911 Becker Ann. Soc. Ent. France, Vol. 29, p. 30.

1912 Enderlein, Stettiner Ent. Zeit. p. 51 (*Metopotropis*).

1912 Brues, Psyche, Vol. 19, p. 135.

As indicated in the last reference above *Conoprosopa*, *Coryptilomyia* and *Metopotropis* are synonymous and the three type species are probably also identical. These three were all described from the male which is of very peculiar structure, particularly in the form of the head. The female has remained unknown,<sup>1</sup> but was presumably to be found not markedly different from the male. A pair taken *in copula* shows the female to be an almost wingless, highly modified, cockroach-like form similar to the females of several genera known from various parts of the world. Of none of the latter is the male definitely known although *Platyphora* of Europe and America is probably the male of *Ænigmatias* known also from these continents. Of *Ænigmatistes*, *Ænigmatopæus* *Thaumatoxena*, etc., from Africa only the apterous females are known.

<sup>1</sup> The sex of the types was mistaken by Enderlein and myself.



The female of *Conoprosopa* is most nearly similar to *Ænigmatistes* described from British East Africa by Shelford in 1908<sup>2</sup> and if the male should prove to be similar to that of *Conoprosopa*, the two might perhaps be considered as congeneric. *Conoprosopa* differs quite markedly from *Ænigmatistes* in the broader head which is much more closely applied to the thorax and to a lesser degree by its smaller antennal cavities and form of the lower side of the head. From *Thaumatoxena*, which it resembles more closely in the form of the head and thorax it differs in the multisegmented abdomen and the dorsal position of the antennal cavities.

A most interesting note accompanies the present specimens stating that when the pair was captured the male was carrying the female between its legs and flying about a lamp.

In the description that follows, I have used the specific name *armigera* as I am sure the male is identical with this species, although, as mentioned above, the three species of the genus are probably not distinct. In the latter case *C. scutellata* Becker would be the older name.

*Conoprosopa armigera* Brues (Fig. 1.).

Psyche, Vol. 17, p. 35 (1910) (*Coryptilomyia*) ♂.

Female. Length 2.2 mm. Broadly oval, much flattened, about half as wide as long, wings represented by minute, finger-shaped vestiges. Head seen from above crescentic and closely applied to the thorax; anterior margin sharply carinate, front and vertex sloping down rather sharply, without macrochætæ; face gently convex, almost horizontal, broadly curved behind and forming the underside of the head; its width about a fourth greater than its length; its lateral angles, which form the anterior corner of the antennal cavities, sharply and acutely angled. Antennæ small, the third joint rounded, with a bare arista; antennal cavities not visible from above, and the antennæ projecting but slightly, a part of the third joint being visible from above near the hind angle of the head. Palpi very short, bare, their tips visible from below between the antennæ and front coxæ. Eyes small, oval, placed at the extreme lateral angles of the head, not visible from below; thorax

<sup>2</sup> Journ. Linn. Soc. Zool., Vol. 30, p. 150



consisting of one segment,<sup>1</sup> very much widened behind and with nearly straight sides; prothoracic spiracles large, on the upper surface, not far from the anterior margin, but well removed from the sides; wing pads about half as long as the sides of the thorax,

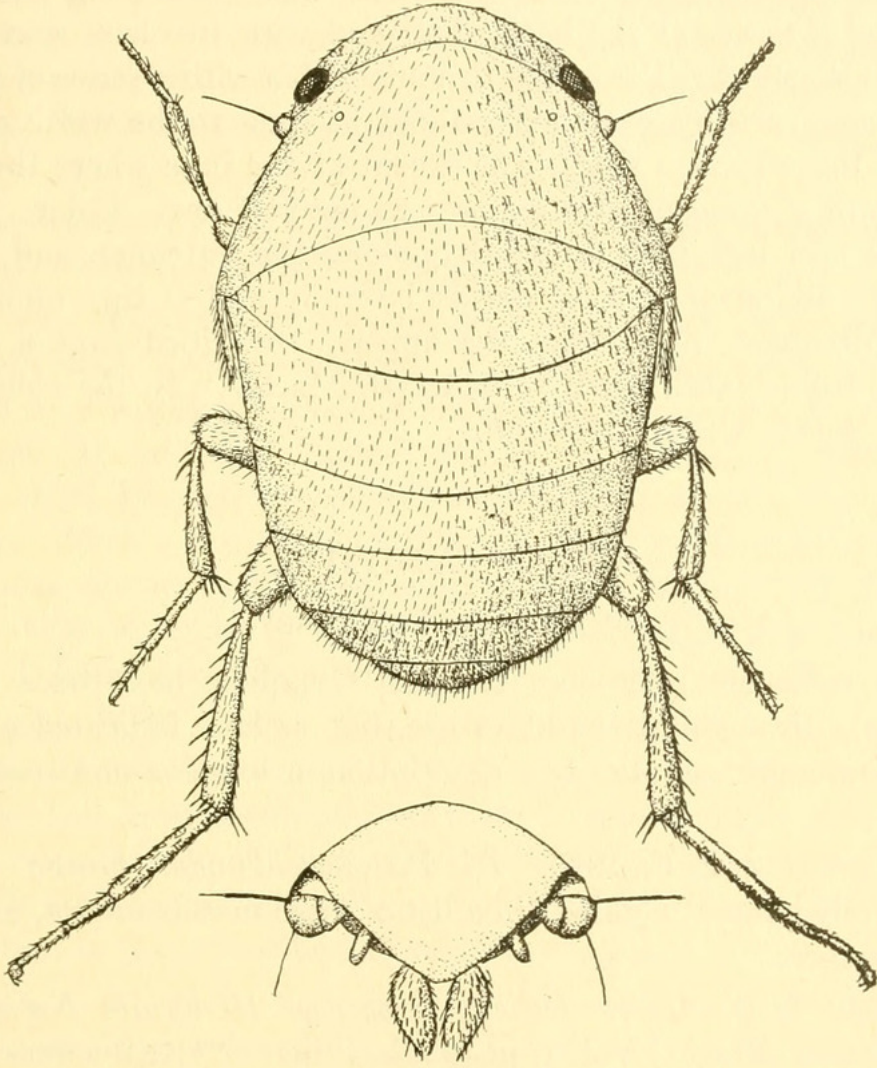


Fig. 1. *Conoprosopa armigera* Brues, female. Dorsal view and front view of head.

heavily chitinized at the base and along the anterior margin, but hyaline apically behind; clothed with fine hairs. Abdomen with six visible segments, the first nearly as long medially as the thorax, but contracted to a point laterally; second somewhat shorter and

<sup>1</sup>There is some doubt in my mind as to whether I have interpreted correctly the segmentation of the body. Shelford has considered the thorax of *Ænigmatistes* as consisting of three segments, but as all the wingless female Phoridae of more normal body shape have the thorax much reduced, I assume such to be the case with *Conoprosopa*. Enderlein takes the same view in regard to *Oniscomyia*.



not narrowed laterally, with its margins strongly arcuate, but nearly parallel; third and fourth each only a little more than half as long as the second and but little narrower; fifth and sixth shorter and suddenly narrower. Legs rather short and not very stout; anterior tibiæ without bristles: middle tibiæ each with a pair of unequal bristles at the basal third and with two long spurs and several shorter bristles at the tip; hind tibia with a series of about ten strong bristles externally, about as long as the width of the tibia; these form a single row except at the base where three of them are in a second row anterior to the first one. Color: head, thorax and legs pale brownish yellow, the antennae and palpi lighter; abdomen fuscous, darker laterally and at tip; underside quite decidedly paler than the upper. Described from a single female from Natal, August, 1915. (B. Marley.) In the collection of the South African Museum.

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### FOSSIL CYNIPIDÆ.<sup>1</sup>

BY ALFRED C. KINSEY.

The following references to fossil Cynipidæ have been made regularly throughout the literature, but as here indicated no one of the references applies to a description or location of a true gall-wasp.

SCHLOTHEIM, E. F., 1820. *Die Petrefactenkunde*. Gotha. Page 43, merely names "Cynips" in a list of fossil insects *known*, mainly from amber.

PRESL, J. S., 1822. *Deliciæ Pragenses Historiam Naturalem Spectantes*. Pragæ., Vol. 1, p. 195, has this: "CYNIPS SUCCINEA. Longitudo  $\frac{3}{4}$  lineæ. Caput globosum, parvulum, rufescens; antennæ longæ, fere quater longitudine sua caput superantes, evidenter ex articulis minutis æqualibus compositæ. Thorax tergo atro, pectore rufescente. Abdomen ovale, stylo dependens, lucidum, fuscum. Alæ quatuor, anteriores obovatæ, latæ, corpore longiores fere tantum, quantum longitudo abdominis efficit, pellucidæ, in quibus decursus venarum non determinabilis quoniam alæ posteriores subtus jacent; alæ posteriores parum breviores

<sup>1</sup>Contributions from the Entomological Laboratory of the Bussey Institution, Harvard University, No. 154.



Brues, Charles T. 1919. "Notes on South African Phoridae (Diptera)." *Psyche* 26, 39–44.

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