

ON SOME PERGINE SAWFLIES REARED BY MR. M. F. LEASK  
(HYMENOPTERA, PERGIDAE).

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(Communicated by Mr. K. E. W. Salter.)

(One Text-figure.)

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For many years now Mr. M. F. Leask, of Ballarat, Victoria, has been rearing and studying Pergine sawflies and sending me the adults to name and samples of pickled larvae for the British Museum collections. The opportunity thus afforded of seeing long series of some of the species has shown me that I had underestimated the range of variation of some of them in 1939 (Benson, 1939) and therefore below submit some new synonymy.

I am indeed much indebted to Mr. Leask and it is with very great pleasure, therefore, that I am now able to name after him a fine new *Perga*, one of his very latest discoveries.

PERGA LEASKI, sp. nov.

*Colour*: Yellow becoming orange on head above and down-turned lateral portions of tergites; black are tips of mandibles, ocellar area and middle part of postocellar area, middle fore lobe of mesonotum (except for the impunctate patch behind), lateral lobes of mesonotum (except for the declivous sides), postscutellum, mesosternum and lower margin of mesepisternum, middle and hind coxae, all abdominal sternites together with sawsheath; and black with metallic violaceous lustre is the whole of the upper side of the tergites except the extreme lateral margins. Wings flavescent with yellowish-brown stigma and venation.

*Length*: 16.5 mm.; forewing 12.5 mm.; antenna 2 mm.

*Pubescence* on head, thorax, coxae and first tergite long and yellow (up to about as long as the medial length of the clypeus).

*Head* (fig.): Shining between scattered punctures, denser on antennal crests. Clypeus slightly emarginate medially. Antenna 6-segmented, almost as long as distance between eyes in front; flagellum as long as width of clypeus; club as long as three preceding segments together. Antennal crests large, rounded, subtriangular, not clearly defined medially where they are scarcely separated from each other. Malar space very short, only about half as long as second antennal segment. Hind ocelli about twice as far from back of head as from each other. POL : OOL as 3 : 2.

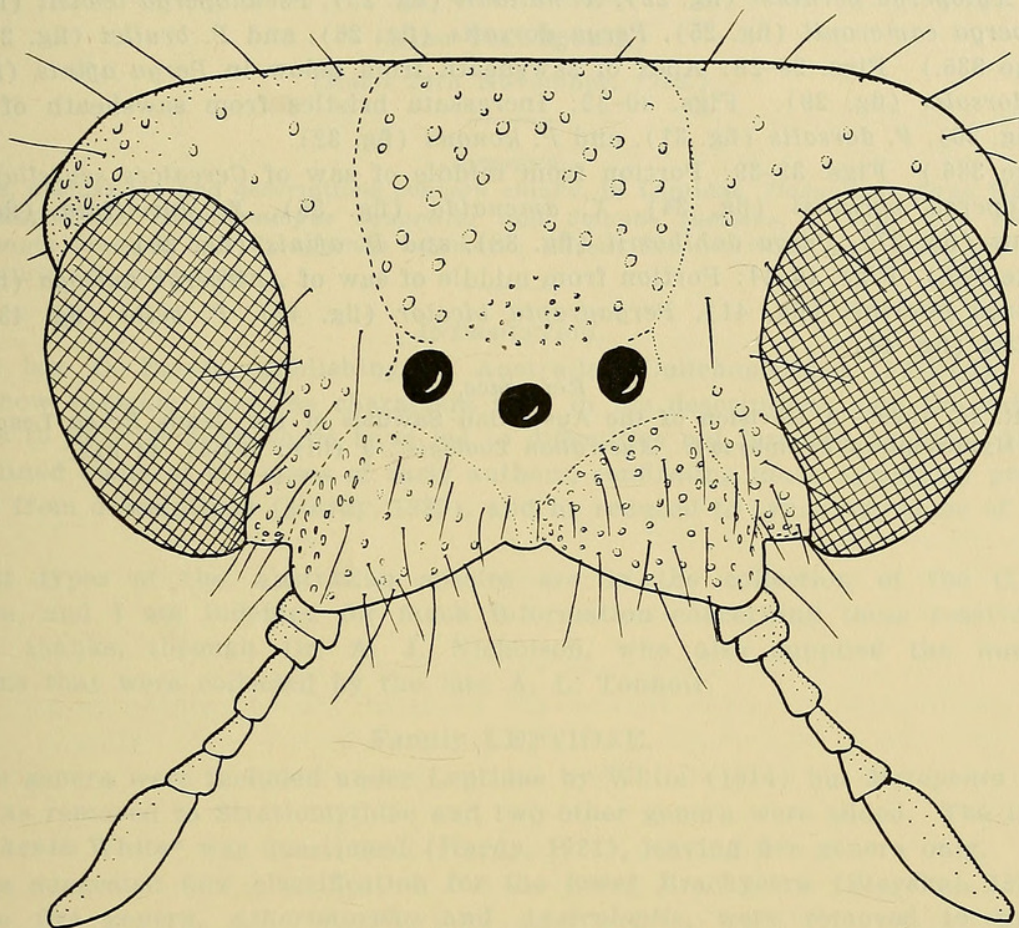
*Thorax*: Pronotum shining between large shallow punctures. Mesonotum covered with small punctures about as far apart as their diameters, but becoming much denser on the sides of the front lobe and the middle of the lateral lobes; hind portion of the front lobe, however, has a raised impunctate area. Scutellum normal, convex without medial furrow or depression, about 1.6 times wider than long; and together with under-thorax between the scattered regular punctures with shining interspaces, medially two or three times wider than the diameter of a puncture. Legs with very short tarsi; hind tarsus little more than half as long as tibia (1.0 : 1.8); basitarsus about as long as three following tarsal segments together. Wings normal.

*Abdomen*: Shining but with transverse alutaceous sculpture above. Setae on sides of sawsheath normal. Saw with about 80 marginal teeth, similar in pattern to that of *Perga dahlbomii* (Benson, 1939, fig. 38) and other species of the same species group.

Clunes, Victoria 1♀ (holotype), bred from larva 20.ii.1958 (larva no. 500), M. F. Leask. (In British Museum.)



In Benson (1939) this species would run to *Perga brevipes* Forsius, which is undoubtedly the most closely related to it of known species, being the only other known *Perga* with the head and thorax clothed in long pubescence. The new species has longer antennae, almost as long as the distance between the eyes in front (in *P. brevipes* an antenna is only about 0.8 this distance). It differs from *P. brevipes* also in its flavescent wings, the dark violaceous tergites above and the denser punctation of the thorax.



Head of *Perga leaski*, sp. nov., from above.

PERGA KOHLI Konow and *P. BRULLEI* Westwood from Victoria.

Among other species reared by Mr. Leask in Victoria in 1958 were specimens of *Perga kohli* Konow, previously only known from Queensland, and *P. brullei* Westwood, previously known only from Western and South Australia.

#### SYNONYMY IN PERGAGRAPTA.

In *Pergagraptia* much material reared by Mr. Leask in Victoria gives an indication of the possible range of variation in certain species and justifies the following synonymy:

*Pergagraptia glabra* Kirby (= *malaisei* Benson, syn. nov.).

*Pergagraptia turneri* Benson (= *hackeri* Benson, syn. nov.).

*Pergagraptia bella* Newman (= *nigra* Benson, *rossi* Benson, and *rohweri* Benson, syn. nov.).

#### Legends to Figures in Benson (1939).

In my previous paper (Benson, 1939) the legends to the figures were lost and did not appear with the paper. They should have been as follows:

(Page 325.) Figs. 1 and 2: Labium and maxilla of *Cerealces* (fig. 1) and *Perga* (fig. 2). Figs. 3-7: Antenna of *Acanthoperga cameronii* (fig. 3), *Perga dorsalis* (fig. 4), *P. brullei* (fig. 5), *Xyloperga halidaii* (fig. 6), and *Cerealces scutellata* (fig. 7).



(Page 327.) Figs. 8-11: Portion of forewing to show stigma, radial and cubital cells in *Acanthoperga* (fig. 8), *Pergagraptia* (fig. 9), *Pseudoperga* (fig. 10), and *Perga* (fig. 11).

(Page 328.) Figs. 12-21: Mesoscutellum of *Xyloperga halidaii* (fig. 12), *Paraperga jucunda* (fig. 13), *Acanthoperga cameronii* (fig. 14), *Pseudoperga lewisii* (fig. 15), *Pergagraptia bella* (fig. 16), *P. bicolor* (fig. 17), *P. spinolae* (fig. 18), *Perga dorsalis* (fig. 19), *P. kirbii* (fig. 20), and *Perga dahlbomii* (fig. 21). Figs. 22-27: Head from above of *Xyloperga perkinsi* (fig. 22), *X. halidaii* (fig. 23), *Pseudoperga lewisii* (fig. 24), *Acanthoperga cameronii* (fig. 25), *Perga dorsalis* (fig. 26), and *P. brullei* (fig. 27).

(Page 335.) Figs. 28-29: Apex of sawsheath from below in *Perga affinis* (fig. 28) and *P. dorsalis* (fig. 29). Figs. 30-32: Incrassata bristles from sawsheath of *Perga affinis* (fig. 30), *P. dorsalis* (fig. 31), and *P. konowi* (fig. 32).

(Page 336.) Figs. 33-39: Portion from middle of saw of *Cerealces scutellata* (fig. 33), *Xyloperga perkinsi* (fig. 34), *X. amenaida* (fig. 35), *X. univittata* (fig. 36), *X. halidaii* (fig. 37), *Perga dahlbomii* (fig. 38), and *P. affinis* (fig. 39).

(Page 343.) Figs. 40-44: Portion from middle of saw of *Antiperga antiopa* (fig. 40), *Pseudoperga guerinii* (fig. 41), *Pergagraptia bicolor* (fig. 42), *P. bella* (fig. 43), and *P. latreillei* (fig. 44).

#### Reference.

BENSON, R. B., 1939.—A Revision of the Australian Sawflies of the Genus *Perga* Leach *sens. lat.* (Hymenoptera Symphyta). *Australian Zoologist*, 9 (iii): 324-57, 44 figs.



Benson, Robert B. 1959. "On some perigine sawflies reared by Mr. M. F. Leask (Hymenoptera, Pergidae)." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 83, 288–290.

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