

AUSTRALIAN CICADIDÆ
WITH REMARKS ON SOME RECENT DISPUTATION

by **W.-L. Distant**

Fam. CICADIDÆ

Thopha nigricans sp. n. — Head, pronotum, mesonotum, sternum and legs black or piceous; abdomen, tympana, and opercula testaceous; tegmina and wings subhyaline, talc-like, the venation dark ochraceous, basal cell brownish-ochraceous with a small hyaline spot at its lower extremity and with its upper margin black; base of head between the eyes about three times as broad as medial length of vertex, eyes strongly pedunculate, considerably passing the anterior pronotal angles, anterior margins of vertex before front distinctly ridged, and diverging strong ridges between the ocelli; pronotum with four central longitudinal carinations on its anterior area, the posterior margin strongly transversely striate; lateral margins of the pro- and mesonota, interior areas of the basal cruciform elevation and the posterior margins of the metanotum ochraceously pilose; tympana very large and testaceously opaque; abdomen much shorter than expanse of tympana, above a little more than half their expanse, beneath about two thirds of their expanse; apical segment of abdomen above cretaceously tomentose.

Long. ♂ excl. tegm. 42 mill. Exp. tegm. 128 mill.

Hab. : North Queensland (KELSALL. — Brit. Mus.).

Allied to *T. sessiliba* DIST. by the strongly pedunculated eyes, but differing from that species by the shorter and broader abdomen, the more concavely sinuate posterior margin of the metasternum, and the black head and thorax, etc.

NEOPSALTODA gen. nov.

Head including eyes much broader than base of mesonotum, medial length about half the breadth between eyes, front prominent, at somewhat right angles with the lateral margins of the vertex which are straightly oblique; eyes somewhat large and prominent, extending beyond the anterior angles of the pronotum; pronotum with the medial length about half as long as breadth at base, the anterior margin arcuate thus narrowing towards lateral margins which are rounded, posterior margin subtruncate; mesonotum including cruciform elevation nearly as long as broad; abdomen

short and broad, but longer than greatest breadth, second segment very broad, dilated at lateral margins and lobately continued on each side beneath, the true tympanal coverings entire; opercula somewhat short, broader than long, overlapping internally, their apices broadly rounded; rostrum passing the intermediate coxæ; tegmina and wings subhyaline; tegmina about two and a half times as long as greatest breadth, apical areas eight; wings about twice as long as broad; apical areas six; abdomen beneath more or less oblique depressed from near base to apex.

Allied to *Psaltoda* STÅL.

Neopsaltoda crassa sp. n. — Head, pronotum and mesonotum brownish ochraceous with black markings; head with the base and lateral transverse fasciæ on each side of front, black, vertex with a broad transverse fascia between eyes and the area of the ocelli, black; pronotum with the incisures (broadly), and the sub-basal margin, black; mesonotum with four obconical spots, the two central spots shortest, the sublateral ones almost percurrent, and a central hastate spot with a broad base in front of the basal cruciform elevation black; abdomen above black, basal and lateral margins of first segment (broadly) and the lateral dilatations to the second segment pale greenish, posterior margins of the remaining segments narrowly brownish-ochraceous; body beneath and legs pale greenish-ochraceous; a transverse fascia between face and eyes, central area and transverse ridges to face, a longitudinal streak on upper surfaces of femora, tibiæ (excluding base), rostrum (excluding base), exposed area of metasternum, and a large spot at base of abdomen, black; face robust, medially, longitudinally sulcate on disk; other characters as in generic diagnosis.

Long. excl. tegm. ♂. 35 mill. Exp. tegm. 95 mill.

Hab. : North Queensland (KELSALL. — Brit. Mus.).

Henicopsaltria Kelsalli sp. n. — Head, pronotum and mesonotum ochraceous with black markings; abdomen black; body beneath black; legs brownish-ochraceous; tegmina and wings hyaline; front of head with an apical spot and lateral lines, black, vertex with the area of the ocelli connected by a transverse fascia to the inner margins of eyes, and a spot at each anterior angle, black; pronotum with two longitudinal central waved fasciæ, connected at apex, and inner basal and lateral margins, black; mesonotum with the margins of two somewhat angulated obconical spots on anterior margin, on each side of these a continuous sublateral fascia, a hastate spot in front of the cruciform elevation, and at the anterior angles of the latter a small round spot, and a poste-

rior lateral marginal fascia connected with the cruciform elevation, black; abdomen black with the margins of the segments greyish pilose; face black, lateral margins, transverse ridges and posterior half of central sulcation, ochraceous; clypeus marginally and centrally ochraceous; legs ochraceous, femora more or less marked with castaneous; head including eyes about as broad as base of mesonotum; abdomen considerably longer than broad; rostrum passing the posterior coxæ; opercula black, longer than broad, scarcely extending beyond basal segment of abdomen, internally overlapping for about half their length and then obliquely directed to apices which are rounded.

Long. excl. tegm. ♂. 33 mill. Exp. tegm. 98 mill.

Hab. : North Queensland (KELSALL. — Brit. Mus.).

The greater length of the abdomen is a somewhat aberrant character with this genus but in all other respect the species conforms with *Henicopsaltria*.

FROGATTOIDES gen. nov.

Head about as long as breadth at base between the eyes; ocelli very large, nearer eyes than to each other; vertex between the ocelli somewhat raised and longly pilose, front medially sulcately depressed; eyes large, transversely oblique, directed backward over the anterior pronotal angles; pronotum twice as broad at base as medially long, the incisures profound, lateral margins strongly sinuate; mesonotum almost as long as broad, somewhat longly pilose; abdomen in ♀ considerably longer than head and thorax together; face long and globose, shortly medially sulcate at base; rostrum passing the anterior coxæ; anterior femora incrassate with three spines beneath, the shortest spine near apex; tibiæ distinctly moderately bent, tarsi long, about two thirds the length of tibiæ; tegmina about twice as long as greatest breadth, the costal margin obliquely ascending for half its length from base and then more horizontally continued to apex, basal cell longer than broad, narrower at apex than at base, radial area large, upper vein of the lower ulnar area fused with the lower vein to the radial area for some distance from base, eight apical areas, the first and eighth broadest, first ulnar area almost as long as radial area, first and fifth broadest, third large, short, somewhat triangular, costal membrane somewhat regular in breadth though narrowest at base, post-costal membrane widening towards apex; wings narrow, more than twice longer than broad, six apical areas.

This genus of *Melampsaltaria* is founded on a female specimen

sent to the by M. FROGGATT to whom I dedicate it. The very large ocelli and the structure of the tegmina distinctly differentiale it.

Frogattoides typicus sp. n. — Head longly pilose, the vertex purplish-brown, the front pale olivaceous-green, ocelli large, oblong, pale flavescent; pronotum olivaceous-green, mesonotum pale virescent, the four obconical spots of which the two ontermost are largest, pale violaceous; abdomen greenish-ochraceous; head beneath and sternum pale greenish, abdomen beneath greenish-ochraceous; femora ochraceous, tibiae and tarsi testaceous-red; tegmina and wings subhyaline, talc-like, the veins testaceous or greenish, postcostal membrane of tegmina largely testaceous near middle; structural characters as in generic diagnosis.

Long. excl. tegm. 20 mill. Exp. tegm. 54 mill.

Hab. : North Queensland; Stannery Hills (Col. BROWN).

Lembeja brunneosa sp. n. — Body above brownish-ochraceous, vertex and pronotum with a central longitudinal fuscous linear fascia which is more obsoletely continued on mesonotum but very prominent at the cruciform elevation and thence extending on the metanotum, a small black spot near each anterior angle of the cruciform elevation; body beneath and legs dull ochraceous, tympana and opercula greyish and transversely striate; tegmina greyish-brown very thickly sprinkled with small brownish spots, the costal membrane ochraceous, without spots; wings very pale flavescent, subhyaline; head with the front about as long as the vertex, the vertical angles in front of eyes roundly produced; mesonotum including cruciform elevation about as long as head and pronotum together; tegmina about two and a half times as long as greatest breadth, apex subacute, first ulnar area about as long as third, fourth ulnar area about as long as radial area, rudimentary vein at base of second ulnar area obsoletely connecting it apex of fifth ulnar area.

Long. excl. tegm. ♂ 21 mill. Exp. tegm. 46 mill.

Hab. : North Queensland; Cape York (FROGGATT coll.).

CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS

In a recent issue of the Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg., p. 297, Dr BERGROTH has written « For *Colobathristidæ* DISTANT later (1903) mistook a genus of the Myodochild subfamilies *Malcinæ* and *Heterogastrinæ* respectively ». He clearly alludes to the two genera *Malcus* and *Artemidorus*. With the first I will now deal, but to make the dis-

question clearer I will point out: (1) That I use the old and well known family name Lygæidæ and not Myodochidæ one of three new names proposed by KIRKALDY and adopted by BERGROTH to supersede it. (2) The objection was really made by BREDDIN (1907) though now repeated by BERGROTH. (3) Both BREDDIN and BERGROTH have refrained from mentioning that LETHIERRY (1894) preceded me in placing *Malcus* in the Colobathristidæ (LETH. and SEV., Cat. Hem. II, p. 175).

The subfamily *Malcida* proposed by STÅL (1865), evidently used for the reception of his genus *Malcus*, was subsequently discarded by STÅL himself in his « En. Hem. IV, p. 170 (1874) » where he places *Malcus* under « Genera et Species Lygæidarum incerti loci systematici ». As STÅL thus virtually suppressed his own subfamily it would perhaps be better for BERGROTH to mention that fact before criticising other writers for not using it, but still our good friend BERGROTH is known to follow criticism « *currente calama* ». As regards *Artemidorus* I am still a heretic.

My friend MR. CHARLES S. BANKS has recently (Phill. J. Sci. IV, p. 564, 1909) remarked, and with justice, that the able and painstaking artist who has illustrated my volumes on the Rynchota of British India, has, in dealing with *Eumenotes obscura* failed to show the veins of the membrane to be reticulated. But MR. BANKS himself has not been able to clear up the « great confusion » which he rightly says is attached to this genus and species, especially when different figures purporting to represent it are examined. Thus the *Aradus truncatus* WALK. is generally regarded as a synonym of *Eumenotes obscura* WESTW., admitted by BERGROTH, who yet (Ann. Mus. Civ. Genoa, XXVII, p. 733, pl. XII, f. 4, 1889) has figured, if that figure is to be accepted as correct, a species which by the shape of the scutellum, and the venation of the membrane does not conform to the figure given by WESTWOOD as representing his *obscura* (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., IV, pl. XVIII, f. 4, 1847), nor can the figures given by BANKS and myself be altogether reconciled with either those of WESTWOOD and BERGROTH. Therefore if figures are to be accepted as really representery the species, there must be three that cannot possibly be reconciled with one another.

They are :

Eumenotes obscura WESTW. Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., IV, p. 247. Pl. XVIII, f. 4 (1847).

Odonia truncata BERGR. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genoa, XXVII, p. 733. Pl. XII, f. 4 (1889).

Eumenotes obscura DIST. Faun. Brit. India Rhynch., II, p. 155, f. 114 (1903) *venation membrane defective*, BANKS, Phill. I. Sci. IV. Pl. II, f. 4 (1909).

I may here point out that M^r BANKS is incorrect in his synonymy. STÅL did not refer to *Odonia truncata* (1870) but to *Eumenotes obscura*, and the same remark applies to his citation of my identification in the British Indian enumeration. It may naturally be asked why I do not now decide the question? I await more material; my collection now only contains one specimen, some other rhynchotist may be in a better position and thus be able to throw more light on this tangle.

The position of the genus *Eumenotes* is also sub judice. M^r BANKS says BERGROTH has again placed the genus in its proper position amongst the Tessaratominæ ». But it was never placed there before! WESTWOOD located it near *Megymenum* in the Dinidorinæ and STÅL did the same (1), which appears its proper location, though BERGROTH now suggests that it forms a distinct subfamily of the Tessaratominæ.

(1) BERGROTH (Deutsch. Ent. Zeitschr. 1907, p. 499) says that STÅL did not know this species « in natura », but in this he is incorrect, as STÅL (1870), distinctly refers to the tarsi when enumerating the species in the Philippine fauna.
