

8. *selecta* Ost. Sack., 1882. Berl. Ent. Teit., xxvi, 236, fig. 13 (wing).
Philippines.
9. *rubicunda* V. der Wulp, 1897. Tijd. v. Ent., xl, 196; pl. viii, 6.
Nias (Java).

In the Indian Museum Collection is a specimen of *Teleopsis* from Tenasserim which does not appear to be any of the described species.

SPHYRACEPHALA Say., 1828. Amer. Entom., iii, pl. 52.

1. *hearseyana* Westw., 1884. Tr. Entom. Soc. Figured by him in Cab. Or. Ent., pl. xviii, 4.

Bengal; Lucknow; Cawnpore. A single specimen from Bhim Tal, taken by Dr. Annandale between September 22nd and 27th, 1906, is in the Indian Museum Collection.

2. *cothurnata* Big., 1874. (5) iv, 115. (*Diopsis*.)
Celebes; Philippines.

Diopsis trentepohlii Westw. in Trans. Linn. Soc., xvii, 546; pl. xxviii, 6, introduced into Van der Wulp's Catalogue as from East India, is an African species (Guinea), as noted in the author's corrections to his Catalogue in Tijd. v. Ent., xlii.

II.—PRELIMINARY REPORT ON A COLLECTION FROM SIMLA

made in April and May 1907

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The specimens dealt with in this report are from places of various altitude in the vicinity of Simla, and were captured by Dr. Annandale and his native assistant this year between April 24th and May 8th. In all, there are about 130 species, and, considering the late season, snow still persisting in sheltered spots, this seems a very satisfactory result for a fortnight's work.

The more I see of the Himalayan Diptera, the more I am inclined to consider that it belongs faunistically to the Palæarctic Region, and not to the Oriental, except as regards the lesser heights on the southern side.

I collected a fair amount of material in 1905 and 1906 during two visits to Mussoorie and one to Darjiling, and the Simla material now under examination strikingly resembles my Diptera from the other two localities, all the collections containing a considerable proportion of European species, these latter, moreover, retaining in most cases their typical form. This is conspicuously the case in the present instance as regards the family Syrphidæ, of which, out of twenty-five species captured, I have identified positively ten as commonly distributed European species, showing no varia-

tion whatever, whilst among the unnamed remainder some will in all probability prove to be European also. *Scatophaga stercoraria* L., the very common dung fly of Europe and North America, is not recorded from the East proper, yet it is as common at Mussoorie, Darjiling and Simla as in accepted Palæarctic localities like Hongkong, Shanghai, Hankow and Japan, in all of which places I found it as abundant as in Europe.

I am hoping to make more extensive studies on the Dipterological hill fauna of India at no distant date, but at present it seems to me that at an altitude of 5,000 or 6,000 feet (almost certainly at 7,000) the Dipterous fauna at least, is much more Palæarctic than Oriental.

The exact localities with altitudes and dates referred to in this report are given first, to avoid repetition after the various species mentioned.

Simla, 7,000 feet, April 24th to 26th and May 4th to 8th.

Theog, 8,000 feet, April 27th and May 1st to 3rd.

Matiana, 8,000 feet, April 28th to 30th.

Phagu, 8,700 feet, May 3rd to 4th.

Dharampur,¹ 5,000 feet, May 6th to 8th.

Of *Mycetophilidæ* about a dozen specimens, representing nearly this number of species.

Bibio obscuripennis Meij. Matiana. In large numbers, first appearing on April 30th near flowering crab-apple trees, on which, however, they did not settle. I found the same species abundant at Darjiling one day in October, 1906, and there is a series from Nepal, also taken in October, in the Indian Museum. This raises the question of the species being possibly two-brooded.

Bibio sp. Three males of a second smaller species, black with reddish legs, black body and clear wings with black stigma.

Plecia melanaspis Wied. One specimen from Theog.

Plecia fulvicollis F. Theog, Phagu. Two females are apparently this species, but the short vein running from the third longitudinal vein to the costa is not so upright as usual, but intermediate between being nearly upright and parallel with the third longitudinal vein. This makes me doubt the identity of these specimens with this species, which is essentially a tropical one, though I have taken it as far north as Meerut. Moreover, the original description says "*alæ obscuræ nigræ*," but Wiedemann in redescribing the species says "wings blackish-brown." The wings of all the specimens I have seen alive or soon after death were obscurely black: perhaps the brown colour is due to age. The old specimens of both this and the previous species in the Indian Museum Collection, have brown wings.

Dilophus, sp. (two specimens). Theog, Phagu. Barely the size of *febrilis*, reddish-brown, with a thin dorsal thoracic stripe and

¹ The specimens from Dharampur were collected by my insect-setter.—N. A.

blackish abdomen above ; black legs with coxæ and basal half of femora (anterior pair, wholly) red.

Simulium indicum Becher. One specimen from Simla is this species, whilst a second, from Phagu, appears to be an undescribed species.

Anopheles sp. (one specimen).

Culex mimeticus Noë. One example, determined by Dr. Annandale. Theog, 2nd May.

Of *Chironomidæ*, which were rather common around water tanks, at least ten species are present, amongst the males ; these being distributed over twenty specimens of both sexes.

The *Tipulidæ* are represented by ten specimens of a prettily wing-marked *Trichocera* and three or four other *Limnobiinæ*, in fair condition. Also by *Pselliophora*, sp. (two specimens), Dharampur ; a large handsome species which is already in the Indian Museum Collection from Nepal, Bhim Tal and Shillong. Though it is so conspicuous a species, I have been unable to identify it with any of the published descriptions.

Rhyphus fenestralis Scop. 4 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀ ; one from Matiana the rest from Simla. Agreeing with the European form of this common species, which occurs generally on windows ; the specimens are slightly larger than usual.

Bombylius major L. 3 ♀♀ ; Matiana and Kodiali (8,400 feet). Two of the specimens (the abdomen of the third is denuded of hair) show a very faint pale dorsal line from the tip of the abdomen nearly to the base. Otherwise they agree exactly with Palæarctic specimens.

Bombylius sp. Dharampur. 1 ♂ with clear wings. The abdomen is denuded, which precludes the possibility of naming the species.

Thereva sp. Theog. 1 ♀ near the European *annulata* but differing sufficiently to make it specifically distinct.

Asilus (sensu lato) 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ ; Theog and Simla. A moderate-sized grey species which might belong to any one of the considerable number of European and Oriental genera described under this genus in its widest sense. Dr. Annandale also took a ♀ of the same species at Lucknow, 21st April, 1907.

In *Empidæ*, three specimens appear to represent *Pachymeria*, *Hilara* and *Tachydromia* respectively.

Dolichopus, sp. 2 ♀♀ ; Matiana.

Pipizella ; a ♂ and ♀ from Matiana probably of the same species.

Chrysogaster sp. 2 ♂♂ ; Matiana.

Melanostoma mellinum L. 2 ♂♂ ; Theog and Simla.

M. scalare F. 1 ♂ ; Matiana. A series of thirteen females from Simla, Theog and Matiana all appear to be the true *scalare*.

M. ambiguum Flu. 1 ♂ ; Matiana.

M. dubium Lett. 1 ♀ ; Matiana. I named this species from "Verrall's British Flies," having no European species at hand to compare it with, but it is noticeable that Verrall records it from an altitude of 3,000 feet in Scotland.

Platychirus albimanus F. 4 ♀ ♀ ; Theog and Matiana. The anterior legs are in most cases a little darker than in normal European forms, but one specimen has them almost entirely pale.

Syrphus pyrastris L. 3 ♂ ♂ 1 ♀ ; Simla and Theog.

S. balteatus De Geer 10 ♂ ♂ 3 ♀ ♀ ; Simla, Matiana, Theog.

S. torvus Ost. Sack. 2 ♂ ♂ 2 ♀ ♀ ; Matiana.

S. luniger Mg. 1 ♂ ; Theog.

S. umbellatarum F. 1 ♂ ; Matiana.

The specimens of the above five species are absolutely identical with European ones. Besides these, there are three ♂ ♂ of a species near *albostrigatus* Flu., but certainly not that species—two of them are from Matiana, the other from Simla. Again, there are 9 other specimens of *Syrphus* representing 6 or 7 species, which I have not yet identified.

Chilosia sp. 1 ♂ ; Matiana.

Sphærophoria sp. 6 ♂ ♂ 4 ♀ ♀

Eristalis tenax L. 1 ♂ 2 ♀ ♀ ; Matiana and Theog. Common everywhere, these specimens are of normal type.

Eristalis solitus Wlk. 2 ♂ ♂ 3 ♀ ♀ ; Matiana and Theog.

Whether I have correctly identified the species or not I am not sure, but I have taken it commonly at Mussoorie, Darjiling, in China and Japan, while the Indian Museum Collection contains a good series from various localities in the East (Sikkim, Shillong and Mussoorie).

Rhingia sp. nov. One of each sex of a new species of this genus which I am describing in a subsequent paper on this group. A ♂ of this species exists in the Indian Museum Collection from Darjiling (7,000—12,000 feet).

In addition to the above species there is a single ♂ from Kodiali (8,400 feet) which I am unable to place generically. It is nearest to *Brachypalpus*, but lacks the enlarged posterior femora with spines beneath.

In *Tachinidæ* 13 examples represent 11 species, amongst which one is apparently a *Gonia*.

Sarcophaga is represented by 2 specimens.

In *Muscinæ veræ*, there are *Calliphora vomitoria* L. (1 ♂ 4 ♀ ♀) from Matiana and Simla ; *C. erythrocephala* Mg. (4 specimens) from Simla and Theog ; *Musca domestica* L., ♂ ♀ from Matiana and Phagu respectively.

Anthomyidæ.—I find *Homalomyia canalicularis* L. (5 ♂ ♂ ; Matiana and Theog) ; an *Aricia* (2 ♀ ♀ ; Theog) with all black legs, and a dozen other species amongst the remaining 44 specimens, mostly small *Chortophilæ*.

In *Aca.yperata* I recognise the handsome *Dryomyza maculipennis* Macq. (allied to the *D. jormosa* of Japan) ; one specimen having been taken at Simla. I took several of this species near a water tank on the jungly hillside at Mussoorie.

Sepedon plumbellus Wied. (Dharampur).

S. crishna Wlk. Matiana ; a male (28th to 30th April, 1907).

Of *Sepsis* three species are present, a larger one with quite clear wings (3 examples from Phagu), a smaller species with red legs, unfortunately headless (1 example from Matiana), and a third (small) species (10 examples from Matiana, Theog, Dharampur) which Dr. Annandale says is quite common in the district.

Scatophaga stercoraria L. 8 ♂♂ and numerous ♀♀, all from Simla. These show no variation from European specimens.

Amongst the remaining Acalypterata there are *Chloropinæ*, 4 spp.; *Borborinæ*, 3 or 4 spp., *Geomyzinæ* (? *Geomyza*, 3 examples of a species with 3 small spots on the wing); whilst fifty other specimens represent probably quite half that number of species.

Phoridæ.—2 specimens (1 species) of *Phora*.
