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AN UNDESCRIBED SPECIES OF PTYCHOPTERA FROM WEST AFRICA (PTYCHOPTERIDÆ, DIPTERA).

By CHARLES P. ALEXANDER, PH.D., URBANA, ILLINOIS.

THE very extensive collections of African crane-flies belonging to the British Museum (Natural History) were sent to me for study through the kindness of Mr. F. W. Edwards, custodian of the Nematoceros Diptera. A new species of *Ptychoptera* that is described herewith was included in this material. The crane-flies of this collection will be described and keyed in a monographic revision of the Ethiopian Tipuloidea that the writer has in preparation. I wish to thank Mr. Edwards very sincerely for the privilege of studying this unrivalled collection of tropical African crane-flies.

Ptychoptera africana, sp. n.

Antennæ with the basal segments yellow, the distal segments dark brown; head blue-black; mesonotal præscutum shiny metallic blue; pleura light reddish-yellow; wings with the costal margin, the broad apex and a narrow seam along the cord dark brown; abdomen shiny black, the tergites with two narrow yellow rings on the third and fourth segments.

Female.—Length about 9 mm.; wing, 7.8 mm.

Rostrum dark brown; palpi with the basal two segments dull yellow, the terminal segments dark brown. Antennæ with the basal segments dull yellow, on the sixth and succeeding segments passing into dark brown; basal half of the second scapal segment dark brown. Head shiny blue-black, the front more opaque, the vertex surrounding the antennal fossæ indistinctly reddish.

Pronotum pale yellow. Mesonotal præscutum shiny metallic blue-black, the humeral angles broadly but indistinctly reddish;

scutum, scutellum and median area of the postnotum deep black. Pleura and lateral regions of the postnotum light reddish-yellow. Halteres dark brown, the base of the stem paler. Legs with the coxæ and trochanters yellow; femora dark brown with the bases yellowish, these broadest on the fore legs, where they occupy almost the basal half, on the hind legs very narrow; tibiæ and tarsi dark brown. Wings subhyaline, the costal margin, the broad wing-apex and a narrow seam along the cord dark brown; the costal margin includes cells *C* and *Sc* and the bases of cells *R* and *M*; the wing-apex includes all of cells *R* 4 and *M* 2, the inner margin of this area being almost straight, continued obliquely backward from the end of *Sc*; the seam along the cord is broadest anteriorly, narrowed to a point at the bend of *Cu* 2; the outer margin of cell *Cu* 1 is narrowly darkened; veins dark brown. Venation: *Rs* short, almost straight, longer than *r-m*, *R* 2 + 3 and *R* 4 + 5 arising directly from the end of *Rs*. The macrotrichia in the distal cells are found in most of the area distad of the cord in cells 2nd *M* and *Cu* 1 and along the wing-margin in cell *Cu*.

Abdomen with the basal tergite yellow, the remaining tergites shiny black with a narrow yellow ring on the third and another at the base of the fourth segment; last two segments and the valves of the ovipositor pale brown.

Habitat.—Southern Nigeria.

Holotype, ♀, Ilesha, September 17th, 1911, caught in house, 8.30 a.m. (Capt. L. E. H. Humfrey).

Type in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History).

Ptychoptera africana is the second species to be described from the Ethiopian region, the other being *P. capensis*, Alexander, of Natal ('Annals South African Museum,' xvii, pt. 2, pp. 139, 140, 1917). By the author's key to the species of *Ptychoptera* ('Canadian Entomologist,' xlv, pp. 197, 198, 1913) the present form would run out at couplet 4. It more or less resembles *P. distincta*, Brunetti, of India, in the dark costal margin and wing-apex, but is readily told by the yellow thoracic pleura and other characters.

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