

May 1893.]

PSYCHE.

461

NOTE ON ATROPHARISTA JURINOIDES TOWNS.

The following notes refer to an article by Dr. Williston in *Psyche*, Vol. 6, p. 409, March, 1893.

In the first place Dr. Williston has not examined the types of this species. The types are in my own collection, with the exception of one ♂ which was sent to the American Entomological Society. I have never identified or seen the specimens in Mr. Aldrich's collection, though I doubt not they are the same.

Upon examining the ♂, I find that the hairs on the eyes are extremely faint, but can be seen on close scrutiny. Upon examining the eyes of the ♀, I also find that, though still more faint, some microscopic hairs can be distinguished on inferior portions. Therefore hairiness of the eyes is not a sexual character here, but only the degree of hairiness is. This is a very frequent sexual character in the Tachinidae, and the ♂ usually, if not always, possesses it in the greater degree.

The eyes, however, of neither sex of this species are hairy enough to be called so, and therefore in my generic description I stated the eyes to be bare (*Trans. Am. ent. soc.* xix, 92-3). Before describing the new genus *Atropharista*, I read in Dr. Williston's description of *Melanophrys* that his genus had the eyes thinly pilose (at least in the ♂), and the third antennal joint 4 or 5 times as long as the second; moreover, the fourth vein was said to have a stump of a vein at bend. *Atropharista jurinoides* has the eyes unnoticeably hairy, the third antennal joint in both ♂ and ♀ hardly longer than the second, while the fourth vein has either no stump whatever at bend, or an extremely short one. I therefore think that I was warranted in not referring the present species to *Melanophrys*.

I should state that I have recently received two ♀ specimens of this species from Mrs. A. T. Slosson, collected at Franconia, New Hampshire. These show, in addition to the silvery stripe from eye to antennae, a detached

silvery marking at lower front corner of eye. Upon examining the South Dakota ♀, I find this silvery marking more faintly represented in it. This is the lowermost portion of the broad silvery marking to be seen in the ♂ of this species. Probably the ♀ of *Melanophrys flavipennis* does not possess this, since its ♂ does not possess the broad silvery marking of the ♂ of the present species.

C. H. Tyler Townsend.

MOULD IN CABINETS.

Get some small, cheap Turkey sponges, as free from large holes as possible, and cut them into cubes of from one half to one inch each. Take some long stout pins, and putting two through one of the cubes of sponge, suspend thus the latter in the drawer so that it touches nothing but the pins. Then get some of Calvert's No. 5 carbolic acid . . . and a glass pipette; lift the carbolic by the pipette, and put as much on the sponge as this will hold without dripping. This will completely prevent the increase of the fungus; and if the carbolic be renewed in two or three months, and if the drawers are pretty tightly closed, will kill what may be therein. The carbolic should not be allowed to get on the insects, but the vapor will be found to help to keep them clean and bright by preventing all forms of decomposition. . . . The tissues of the insects in the drawers become after a time, I believe, slightly carbolized, and then mites and mould will not attack them. I use it in all my boxes and drawers, and consider it essential to the preservation of collections containing very large insects by keeping the atmosphere inside the drawers quite disinfected. (*Ent. Mo. Mag.* April, 1893, p. 93-94.)

D. Sharp.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

CAMBRIDGE ENTOMOLOGICAL CLUB.

10 February, 1893.—The 176th meeting was held at 156 Brattle St. Mr. S. Henshaw was chosen chairman.



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