

Mr. Lugger expressed his pleasure at being once more in Washington, which he said was the Mecca of American entomologists.

—Messrs. Chapin and Morris discussed the time required for drying the wings of the large Bombycids.

—Mr. Kotinsky, referring to a remark made by Professor Gill at a previous meeting, in which, speaking of the bower bird, he had asked whether anything of a similar nature occurred among the insects showing an æsthetic taste, called attention to a note by Kirby in “Marvels in Ant Life,” in which is mentioned the observations of Jenner Weir at Pisa on an ant which made a mound of earth over the nest entrances, collecting there such numbers of empty snail shells that they could be picked up by handfuls.

Mr. Lugger referred to the helix-like case of certain Trichoptera, and to the fact that the cases of many of the larvæ of this group of insects are very beautiful and exhibit an apparent æsthetic taste.

—Mr. Ashmead showed three African Hymenoptera, two of which have been collected by Mr. Currie in Liberia. He discussed the validity of *Odontobracon* of Cameron as a genus distinct from *Syngaster* of Brullé, showing a specimen of this genus. The second specimen represented a new genus of Braconidæ, with deeply emarginate eyes; and the third another Braconid, representing a new genus of Macrocentrinæ. He also showed a specimen of Kriechbaumer’s genus *Dicranoneura* belonging to the same group; and he expressed himself as being gratified to find so many recently described African genera in the National collection.

—In the absence of Mr. Marlatt, the Secretary read the first paper of the evening, which was prepared by the absentee, and was entitled “The European Fruit Diaspis.” Discussion ensued by Messrs. Ashmead, Pollard, and Howard as to the synonymical questions involved.

—The second paper was by Mr. Currie, and was entitled :

#### A DWARF ANT-LION FLY.

By ROLLA P. CURRIE.

Dr. Hermann Hagen, in his “Synopsis of the Neuroptera of North America,” described a new species of Myrmeleonidæ under the name *Myrmeleon pygmæus*. The measurements given for

the single specimen, collected in Mexico, show it to be the smallest ant-lion fly recorded up to that time. As is well known, however, there is considerable individual variation in size in some species of these insects, and I have recently studied specimens in the National Museum collection which appear to belong to *pygmæus*, although considerably larger than the type, and as large, or larger, than some other forms recently described.\*

In his "Stray Notes on Myrmeleonidæ," Part 3, † Dr. Hagen again alludes to this species, putting it, with a query, in the genus *Maracanda* of MacLachlan, a genus characterized, as is this species, by absence of tibial spurs. As pointed out in that article, it differs considerably from the other species of *Maracanda*, and, after examining specimens, I have decided to erect for it a new genus.

#### MARACANDULA, new genus.

Tibæ without spurs. Antennæ short, almost capitate, slender basally. Palpi short. Basal joint of tarsi as long, or nearly as long, as the three following joints. Wings short, their apices strongly dilated, very obtusely pointed; venation simple; radial sector with five or six posterior forks.

*Type*.—*Myrmeleon pygmæus* Hagen.

As the original description is somewhat meagre, it may be well to redescribe the species from the material now available.

MARACANDULA PYGMÆA (Hagen).

*M. [yrmeleon] pygmæus* Hagen, Syn. Neur. N. Am., July, 1861, p. 231.

*Maracanda? pygmæa* Hag., Can. Ent., XIX, No. 11, November, 1887, p. 216.

*Male*.—Length, 20 mm.; alar expanse, 38 mm.; greatest width of anterior wing, 5.6 mm.; antenna, 2.4 mm. Fuscous and luteous. Pubescence white and black, rather long and sparse.

Face flat; upper part, between and surrounding antennæ, piceous, forming a transverse band. Labrum narrower than clypeus, rather long, free edge rounded and *not* straight or emarginate in front. Palpi luteous, tinged with piceous, especially dark on apical joints; last joint of maxillary palpi narrowed towards tip, of the labial, slender fusiform. Labium, palpigers, mentum and throat, tinged with piceous. Antennæ about as long as the distance between their base and articulation of anterior wing, fuscous; several joints before the club, and a portion of the club itself, pale; two basal joints piceous, their apices narrowly, and articulation with the head, luteous. Vertex strongly elevated; the sides, viewed from in

\* *Brachynemurus pallidus* Banks; *B. pusillus* Currie.

† *Canadian Entomologist*, Vol. XIX, 1887, p. 216.

front, nearly vertical; longitudinal furrow marked by a fine fuscous line; above with a large fuscous spot on each side near occiput.

Pronotum as broad as long, somewhat narrowed in front; anterior angles rounded, front margin nearly straight; an interrupted, obscure, pale fuscous line running lengthwise in the middle, and a large, irregular, darker spot each side at the transverse furrow; sides beneath bordered with fuscous. Meso- and meta-notum fuscous, varied with luteous, especially on lateral and posterior lobes, the pattern indistinct. Sides and sterna fuscous and luteous in about equal proportions.

Abdomen pale fuscous below, luteous above; segment 2 and apical half of the following segments fuscous dorsally; the luteous portions of dorsum have indications of a longitudinal median dark line. Appendages extremely short (hardly apparent to the naked eye), blunt, divaricate, luteous, very similar in shape to those of *Brachynemurus pusillus* Currie.\*

Legs with long, sparse, black and white spines on tibiæ; coxæ, luteous, marked with fuscous; femora tinged with the same color; apices of tibiæ, a ring near their base, and tips of tarsal articles, dark; claws about half the length of last tarsal joint, rufo-piceous.

Wings a little longer than abdomen, hyaline, the posterior margins slightly incurved apically. Pterostigma white, brown interiorly, a few intercostals forked before it. Veins with long, sparse, black and white hairs; longitudinals pale luteous; with frequent fuscous interruptions; transversals yellow, fuscous or bi-colored. Anterior wings with a series of pale brownish cloudings between subcosta and radius; another series between median and submedian veins, a larger spot at their apical terminus and another at juncture of anal vein and posterior cubital fork; posterior wings narrower and a little shorter than anterior, unspotted, except for a dark clouding at end of mediana. Membranule of posterior wings provided with a tuberculiform process which is tipped with a brush of hairs or bristles.

*Female*.—Abdomen one-fourth shorter than in the male; other measurements about the same. Tip of abdomen dark, spinous; the usual short, hairy, cylindrical appendages below. Wings a little more rounded at tips, the posteriors without tuberculiform process from membranule.

Described from three specimens, one male and two females, collected in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., Arizona, June 16 and 17, 1898, by Mr. E. A. Schwarz. Two more specimens, females, collected by Dr. R. E. Kunze, at Phœnix, Arizona, May 16 and June 7, 1897, and kindly loaned me by Mr. C. C. Adams, are smaller than the others, with wings more rounded at tips, posterior margins not perceptibly incurved. They expand 32 to 33 mm. This species superficially resembles *Brachynemurus sackeni* in the markings of wings and abdomen.

\* Can. Ent., XXXI, No. 12, December, 1899, p. 363.