

FROM

THE ENTOMOLOGIST

February, 1916



LONDON: WEST, NEWMAN & CO., 54, HATTON GARDEN

INCORPORATED WITH

ADLARD & SON, BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE.

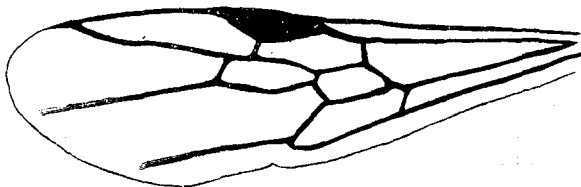
Reprinted from 'The Entomologist,' February, 1916.

A NEW SPECIES OF PONERINE ANT CAPTURED BY AN ASILUS.

BY W. C. CRAWLEY, B.A.

In an interesting and extensive collection of African Asilids and their prey, made by Mr. S. A. Neave in Nyasaland in 1913 and 1914, is a number of ants. As might be expected, the majority of these are males and females, probably captured by the fly during their marriage flight, but there are also a few worker forms, all of tree-climbing species, notably *Polyrhachis* and *Camponotus*.

Many of the males that are unaccompanied by workers are almost impossible to identify, and some of the females are also difficult for the same reason; consequently I have thought it



Upper wing of ♀ of *Promyopias asili*.

better to publish first the description of the most interesting specimen, as it belongs to a rare and little-known genus.

Promyopias asili sp. nov.

♀. L. 7.1 mm. Mandibles linear, as long as the head, with 3 teeth at the apex, the apical tooth blunt, the intermediate very small and acute, and the inner one acute, larger than the intermediate, but smaller than the apical; strongly curved from the inner tooth for more than half their length, where they form a blunt tooth, and from this point to the base they are considerably thickened. The clypeus forms a narrow border along the mouth, is raised in the middle, and slightly produced in an angle between the frontal carinae. The latter are short, hardly, if at all, overhanging the clypeus. Head without the mandibles rectangular, slightly broader than long, the occipital margin almost straight, with rounded angles. The frontal groove reaches the anterior ocellus. Eyes placed in the fore part of the sides of head, occupying the second quarter. The scapes do not quite reach the occipital margin, just passing the posterior fifth. The first joint of the funiculus only slightly longer than the second, and joints 3-9 are as broad or broader than long; the last 5 gradually thicken to the apex, the apical equalling the two preceding joints taken

together. Thorax narrower than the head, with unbroken dorsal profile, very slightly curved, the pronotum feebly bordered. The basal surface of the epinotum is slightly broader than long, the declivous surface as long as the basal, the angle joining them slightly larger than a right angle. Node of petiole viewed from above broader than long, wider and convex in front, concave behind; viewed in profile, straight in front and convex behind; underneath with a small tooth. Gaster slightly broader than the head, hardly constricted after the post-petiole.

Mandibles smooth and shining, with a few scattered punctures. Clypeus in centre with a small shining space, bordered by a few striae. Head longitudinally rugose, with a few punctures on the occiput. Antennal scapes finely punctured. Pronotum with a central longitudinal strip smooth and shining, the rest and the mesonotum finely punctured. Epinotum, pedicel and gaster smooth and shining. Sides of thorax finely striate. Anterior femora and tibiae finely punctured.

The whole body covered with a golden pubescence; a double row of long stiff hairs on the inner margin of mandibles, along the curve from the apex to the tooth beyond the halfway line; several long stiff hairs on the clypeus, and a few scattered hairs on the epinotum, node, and gaster, and rings of stiff hairs on the apical segments of the latter. Dorsal surface of middle tarsi with a row of stiff hairs.

Chestnut; head and antennae slightly darker. Wings iridescent; neuration as in figure.

The genus *Myopias* Roger contains two species, from Ceylon and New Guinea. In 1914 Santschi described a ♂ from French Guinea, placing it in a new subgenus *Promyopias*. I thought at first that *P. asili* might be the ♀ of Santschi's *silvestrii*, but the shape of the epinotum and especially of the node, together with a few other differences, induced me to consider it a different species.

Both these species would appear to be hypogaecic.

The other ants in the Asilid collection comprise the following genera: *Centromyrmex* (1 ♀); *Euponera* (*Mesoponera*) (♀ ♀); *Paltothyreus* (1 ♀); *Sima* (2 ♀ ♀); *Carebara* (♂ ♂); *Myrmecaria* (♀ ♀ and ♂ ♂); *Cataulacus* (1 ♀); *Crematogaster* (1 ♀); *Monomorium* (*Mitara*) (2 ♀ ♀); *Ecophylla* (♀ ♀); *Plagiolepis* (♂ ♂ and ♀ ♀); *Camponotus* (♂ ♂ and ♀ ♀); *Polyrhachis* (♂ ♂, ♀ ♀ and ♂ ♂); and a number of male *Ponerinae*.

Note.—Since the above was in the press, I have received Prof. Emery's opinion, viz. that *Promyopias* is more nearly allied to *Pseudoponera* than to *Myopias*, and therefore cannot be a subgenus of *Myopias* as Santschi had thought. I have followed Emery in considering it a separate genus.

29, Holland Park Road, W.