

ON A NEW GENUS OF PSYLLIDÆ FROM NYASALAND.

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The remarkable insect herein described belongs to the family PSYLLIDÆ, of which relatively few species have hitherto been recorded from Africa. The pupæ (and possibly also the larvæ) cover themselves with dense masses of white flocculent or wool-like wax, the separate strands of which are sometimes over one inch in length. These flocculent coverings are arranged together in large patches on both the leaves and stems of the food-plant so that they are thereby rendered most conspicuous. The habit of secreting coverings of white wax is common to many members of this family of the Homoptera; but the great length to which it attains in this species is quite exceptional and noteworthy.

Pseudoeriopsylla, gen. n.

Female:—Head with the frons twice as broad as long, front indentate or slightly cleft; eyes hemispherical, prominent. Thorax with the pronotum equal in width to the frons, convex. Wings (fig. 13) broadly lanceolate, with a large stigma; stem of sub-costal vein nearly as long as the upper branch of the cubitus; radius of sub-costa short, and from it arises a very short supernumerary vein which merges into the costa near the middle.

Pseudoeriopsylla nyasæ, sp. n.

Female.—Colour of dried specimens pale ochreous buff; mesothorax with two bilateral, elongated and curved blotches of pale brown. Venter of abdomen covered with dense creamy white plates of wax. Antennæ fulvous, tips infuscated. Eyes black, with a faint margin of pale crimson. Legs ochreous buff; tibial spines jet-black. Wings (elytra) (fig. 13) hyaline, broadly lanceolate, costa

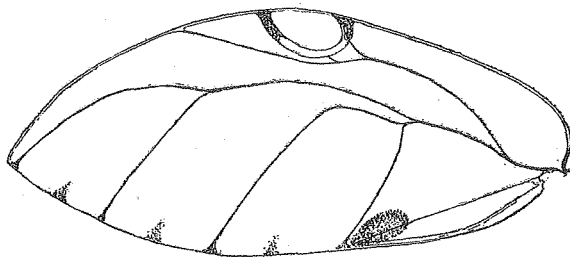


Fig. 1.—*Pseudoeriopsylla nyasæ*, Newst.; wing (elytron) of female.

more distinctly arched than the hind margin; stigma large, upper portions of the periphery black or infuscated; stem of sub-costa infuscated just below its junction with the cubitus; there is also a large infuscated area or blackish spot on the margin immediately behind the lower fork of the cubitus; the tips of the succeeding veins on the hind margin are also infuscated and there are

three triangular spots alternating and equidistant between them, formed by groups of dark coloured spines. Length of *dried specimen*, 3.50 mm.; length of wing, 5 mm.

Pupa.—Ochreous buff to ochreous brown (dried examples). Antennæ of three segments, of which the third is much the longest; all the segments with many fine hairs some of which are long, others very short, and there are two slender spines at the tip of the terminal segment. Legs stout and setose. Wing-sheaths with a fringe of rather long slender bristles and slender spines arranged more or less alternately. Abdomen short and broadly rounded posteriorly, margin with a fringe of fine bristles or hairs; derm with large tracts of minute circular spinnerets, and with narrow bands of minute spines arranged transversely.

Secretionary covering of larva.—Pure white, composed basally of dense flocculent matter, externally of very long wool-like filaments varying in length from 6 to 26 mm.

Eggs.—Pale yellowish, when empty pearly white. They are laid upon the surface of the leaves and are protected with a layer of white and rather densely felted wax, the latter extending beyond the eggs for some considerable distance.

On the leaves and small branches of a species of fig (local name "Kachire"); near the north-west shore of Lake Nyasa, 4. VII. 1910 (*S. A. Neave*).

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