

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF PSYLLIIDAE FROM MEXICO

(Homoptera)

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In 1913¹ Crawford erected the genus *Paurocephala* for the Philippine species *psylloptera*, and later in 1914² described *magnifrons* a Mexican species in this genus. In 1919³ after describing *Paurocephala conigra* from the Molaccas Crawford states that *conigra* is closely related to *magnifrons* and intimates that the two forms possibly constitute a new genus. I am not familiar with *conigra* and have not included it in this work. The genus *Trigonon* Crawford was set up in 1920⁴ to receive two South Pacific forms, the type *Heteropsylla longicornis* Crawf. and *T. pacificum* Crawf. Subsequently in 1925⁵ *Psylla erythrinae* Lizer, a South American species, was placed in *Trigonon*. There is no doubt that *magnifrons* Crawf. and *erythrinae* Lizer are congeneric even though each have been placed in separate genera.

I have examined specimens of *longicornis* and *pacificum* Crawford, loaned to me through the courtesy of the proper authorities of the U. S. National Museum upon the recommendation of Miss Louise M. Russell of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and find *longicornis* to be generically distinct from *erythrinae* and *magnifrons*; nor can these two American species be included in *Paurocephala* as represented by the type species. The forms in the Western Hemisphere, with one exception, are without a genus consequently I propose a new genus to include *magnifrons* Crawford and *erythrinae* Lizer, and a new species from Mexico. This leaves *Paurocephala fremontiae* Klyver the dubious representative of *Paurocephala* in the new world.

Neopsyllia new gen.

Head broader than thorax. Vertex twice as broad as long, evenly rounded downward and under, narrowed to a prominent frons. Eyes prominent; lateral ocelli scarcely elevated above plane of vertex. Clypeus rounded, prominent. Genae greatly swollen. Antennae about as long as entire insect. Thorax little arched; pronotum declivent. Forewings elongate; basal costal margin thin, plate-like; pterostigma long, narrow; first marginal cell approximately twice the size of second. Apex of hind tibiae with one spur on out side and four within, two of the four closely appressed. Proctiger of male without caudal flaps.

Differing from either *Trigonon* Crawf. or *Paurocephala* Crawf. by the broad, very smooth vertex narrowed and evenly rounded to the

¹1913. Philip. Jr. Sci., 8: 293-294.

²1914. U. S. N. M. Bul. 85: 42-43.

³1919. Philip. Jr. Sci., 15: 151-152.

⁴1920. Philip. Jr. Sci., 17: 354-355.

⁵1925. Broteria Ser. Zoo., 22: 18-19.

frons. Separated from *Heteropsylla* Crawford by the vertex, frons, and genae forming a smooth surface and by the frons being placed before the genae. The forewings also lack the very broad pterostigma characteristic of *Heteropsylla*.

Type: *Neopsyllia amabilis* n. sp.

***Neopsyllia amabilis* n. sp.**

Total length of male 3.4 mm., female 3.9 mm.; forewing of male 2.8 mm., female 3.1 mm. Face orange-yellow with a transverse black stripe between eyes. Antennae yellow on four basal segments, remainder black. Pronotum marked with black as follows; a median dash on anterior margin and a transverse line near posterior margin interrupted medially. Prescutum with a black median line and an ovate mark on either side of the line. Scutum sometimes with a broad orange stripe far laterad on either side. Abdomen yellow; tergites margined and spotted with black; an irregular black line present on either side in ventral aspect. Forewings hyaline, slightly yellowed apically; four indistinct dark marginal dashes present apically.

Proctiger of male quadrate in lateral aspect. Genital capsule broadly notched on ventro-anterior margin. Forceps as long as proctiger, broad; apices narrow, convergent, each terminated by a blunt tooth; apical third of anterior margins bearing very heavy spines. Female genital segment as long as rest of abdomen; dorsal valve narrowed in apical third to styliform apex.

Male *holotype*, five male and five female *paratypes* from Jalapa, Veracruz, 10-31-45, K. 270, (DeLong, Elliott, Hershberger, & Shaw). Female *allotype* from Jacala, Hidalgo, 8-13-36, (Ball) is in the U. S. National Museum. I have also seen one female in poor condition intercepted by the Bureau of Entomology & Plant Quarantine with the following date: 2-4-47, Chilpancingo, Guerrero.

A PLEA FOR BREVITY—AND SANITY—IN ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE, by J. C. FAURE. *Journal of the Entomological Society of South Africa*, Vol. IX, pp. 39-44, 1946.

This short article, which has reached the editor as an author's reprint, brings up the perennial difficulty of unwieldy scientific names. *Brachyuropushkydermatogammarus* remains in the reviewer's memory from years ago as a gem to be ridiculed before his classes, but the author cites other such names from the work of Dybowski, published in 1926, as a basis for his very lucid plea for practical limitations on the coining of scientific names. One is forced to agree with him that descriptiveness is of little if any value in our scientific nomenclature; certainly an adequate description cannot be encompassed by one word, whatever its length. Shortness and pronounceability, appropriateness and descriptiveness as far as the latter is possible, and sufficient difference from existing names to avoid confusion are the principal points emphasized. The author suggests that it may be wise for the International Rules to contain a limitation of fifteen letters for newly proposed scientific names. Probably the good sense of most taxonomists makes a rule unnecessary, but workers on the Crustacea who may run afoul of Dybowski's creations may find it desirable.—A. W. L.