

cross-vein (in first posterior cell) situated a little beyond the discal, great cross-vein before the middle of the latter; sixth longitudinal vein nearly straight.

Hab.—Dunoon, Upper Richmond River, N. S. Wales (Helms).
Three specimens in March.

STEPHANOCIRCUS, SK.: A REJOINDER.

Mr. Carl F. Baker omitted to include a diagnosis of my genus in his table of the genera of the Pulicidæ* as he evidently first wished to "verify all the points of the description" by the examination of actual specimens. I would explain that the flea in question was taken in large numbers on one animal, *Dasyurus maculatus*, Kerr, and that there is no mistake in attributing the two sexes figured in my paper† to one species.‡ It would possibly not conform with Mr. Baker's preconceived system of classification of what he calls "Siphonaptera." Before essaying the task of reconstructing existing classification it is usual for the reformer to make himself acquainted with the literature bearing on the subject. Mr. Baker, however, discusses my conclusions at second hand and without attention to the numerous figures upon which I relied to elucidate my meaning. Under these circumstances it is scarcely fair in him to condemn my article as confusing together two species referable to known genera. What genera they should be referred to, Mr. Baker, exercising more discretion than valour, fails to indicate. It is at least remarkable that one supposed species should be all males and the other all females. Were such the case they might produce a hybrid in consonance with Mr. Baker's classification.

There is a tale extant of a conchologist who elaborated a classification of Mollusca; one shell however, which refused to fall in line with his system was promptly disposed of under his heel, to save further trouble. It would appear that my *Stephanocircus* merits a similar sad fate.

In conclusion I might mention that a very remarkable flea was described from Australia§ by Olliff, under the name of *Echidnophaga ambulans* (from the peculiar character of its inability to jump), but no notice is taken of this insect in Mr. Baker's papers.

F. A. A. SKUSE.

* Canad. Entom., xxvii., p. 63.

† Rec. Austr. Mus., ii., p. 77, pl. xvii.

‡ Strong evidence is furnished by Mr. Baker, himself, when he affirms (l.c., p. 132), "It is not a usual occurrence for two species of fleas to be found living together on a single wild animal," that there is no error in my data.

§ Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., (2) i., p. 172, (1886).