

TWO NEW THOMISIDS.

By W. J. RAINBOW, F.L.S., Entomologist.

(Plate xxx.)

THE present paper contains descriptions of two new species of Thomisidæ, exceedingly interesting forms. The first, for which I propose the name *Misumena tristania*, was collected by Mrs. C. T. Starkey, of Neutral Bay, Sydney, at Cobbity, and presented by her to the Trustees. The spider was found upon some flowers of *Tristania laurina*, R. Br. (N.O. Myrtaceæ) a tall shrub or small tree, which (according to Mr. J. H. Maiden, Director of the Botanical Gardens, Sydney, who kindly identified the flowers for me), is found near watercourses, and is not uncommon in mountain gullies. The flowers of this shrub are bright yellow, and the colour is closely simulated by the spider, so that, unless it happens to move, it is difficult to detect. And, to colour must be added the form of the animal itself, when studying it in connection with the question of mimicry, because, when at rest, the body is posed in such a manner as to add greatly to the effect. The mimetic resemblance, therefore, must be regarded as *protective* and *attractive*: the former, because it would assist the Arachnid in evading insectivorous foes, and the latter, because it would be the means of attracting insects upon which it feeds.

The second species, *Saccodomus formivorus*, is remarkable not alone on account of its form, but also for the reason that, contrary to all previously recorded facts based upon accurate observations of the habits of the Thomisidæ, it constructs a bag-like nest. It is in consideration of this, that in founding the genus diagnosed below, I propose the generic term *Saccodomus*.

It has long been regarded as an axiom that all those individuals and species embraced within the vast family Thomisidæ, popularly known as "Crab" or "Flower" Spiders, are essentially wanderers, constructing neither webs nor nests for the capture of prey, but relying solely upon their activity, cunning, or mimetic resemblance to surrounding objects.

Another interesting feature in connection with this species is its food. Both Mr. W. W. Froggatt and Mr. George Masters, in speaking to me upon the subject, said that so far as their