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STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN ARANEIDÆ.

No. 2.

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

(Figures 26-31.)

The present paper contains descriptions of three interesting spiders, two of which were presented to the Trustees of the Australian Museum by Mr. J. J. Walker, R.N., and one by my colleague, Mr. Chas. Hedley. Those collected by the first-named gentleman are from Western Australia, and that by Mr. Hedley from Mornington Island, the largest island of the Wellesley Group, Gulf of Carpentaria.

Family ARGIOPIDÆ.

Genus *Araneus*, Walck.

(= *Epeira*, auct.)

ARANEUS EXSERTUS¹, sp. nov.

(Figs. 26, 27.)

Female: *Cephalothorax*, 3.2 mm. long, 2.6 mm. broad; *abdomen*, 6.7 mm. long, 4.2 mm. broad.

Cephalothorax longer than broad, arched, sides and caput dark brown, median area grey; the whole clothed with grey hairs.

Pars cephalica arched, terminating in front with a tubercular ocular eminence. *Pars thoracica* strongly arched, deeply furrowed at centre, radial grooves partially hidden by grey hairs. *Marginal band* broad.

Eyes.—Black. The four comprising the median group are elevated on a prominent tubercular eminence, and form a square or nearly so; of these the anterior pair are slightly the largest, and are separated from each other by a space equal to nearly twice their individual diameter; the posterior pair are separated from their anterior neighbours by a space equal to one and a half their individual diameter, and again from each

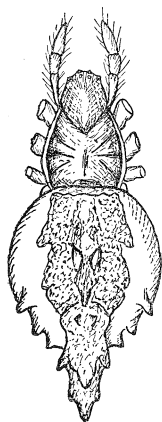


Fig. 26.
Araneus exsertus.

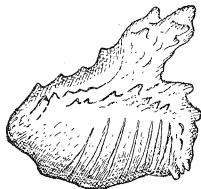


Fig. 27.
A. exsertus.
Abdomen, profile.

¹ *Exsertus*—Stretched out. So named in reference to the large abdominal tubercle.

other by about two diameters; lateral eyes minute, contiguous and elevated obliquely upon small tubercles.

Legs.—Long, spined, clothed with grey hairs; coxæ and trochanters yellowish-green; femora concolorous for rather more than half their length, thence dark brown; patellæ yellowish green above, orange yellow beneath, lateral ridges dark brown; tibiæ yellowish-green with dark green annulations, the latter much the darkest underneath; meta-tarsi and tarsi concolorous. Relative lengths: 1, 2, 4, 3.

Palpi.—Yellowish-green, similar in clothing and armature to legs.

Falces.—Strong, arched, apices divergent, shining, dark brown except at base of inner margins where they are pale yellowish; upper margin of furrow of each falx armed with four teeth, and the lower with three.

Maxillæ.—Arched, apices truncated, dark brown, inner margins whitish.

Labium.—Short, broad, arched, base dark brown, apex whitish.

Sternum.—Shield-shaped, dark brown, clothed with grey hairs.

Abdomen.—Ovate, overhanging base of cephalothorax, dark grey down the middle, light grey laterally, and dark grey underneath; superior surface rather rough and uneven, ornamented with a leaf-like design, and strongly tuberculated; from near the posterior extremity of the dorsal surface, a long, strong, rugose tubercle is directed backwards and upwards; beneath the latter there are two pairs of coniform tubercles, and of these the lower pair are much the shortest; in addition to these there are eight large lateral tubercles—four on each side, and each series form a slightly curved line, with the curvature directed outwards; there are also several smaller tubercles beneath the latter.

Epigyne.—A short, somewhat coniform process directed backwards.

Loc.—Mornington Island, Wellesley Group, Gulf of Carpentaria.

Genus *Poltys*, C. Koch.

POLTYS SALEBROSUS,² *sp. nov.*

(Figs. 28, 29.)

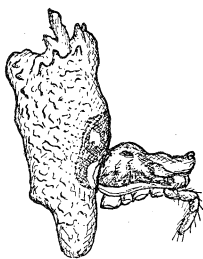


Fig. 28.
Poltys salebrosus.

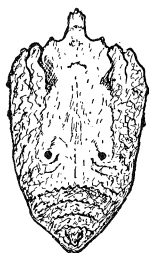


Fig. 29.
P. salebrosus,
Abdomen from
the rear.

Female: *Cephalothorax* 2·6 mm. long; 1·8 mm. broad; abdomen 2·2 mm. long, 3·5 mm. broad, 6·8 mm. high.

Cephalothorax.—Longer than broad, arched, dark mahogany brown, smooth, glossy. *Pars cephalica* arched, terminating in front with a tubercular ocular eminence, furnished with a thick median brush of grey bristles. *Clypeus* broad, pitchy black and clothed with long grey hairs. *Pars thoracica* smooth, shining, strongly arched, median depression deep, radial grooves faintly distinct. *Marginal band* broad.

Eyes.—Normal.

Legs.—Long, hairy and spined; coxæ yellowish-grey; trochanters of first and second pairs yellow, with patches of black near the base on the underside, and ringed with black at the lower extremity; patellæ, tibiæ, meta-tarsi, and tarsi yellowish-grey; posterior pairs yellowish-grey. Relative lengths: 1 = 2, 4, 3.

Palpi.—Yellowish-grey; similar in clothing and armature to legs.

Falces.—Long, arched, glossy, dark brown, inner margin hairy, apices divergent.

Maxilla.—Broad, arched, moderately long, divergent, glossy, dark brown, lateral margins clothed with tawny hairs.

Sternum.—Shield-shaped, convex, densely clothed with tawny hairs.

² *Salebrosus*—Rough, rugged. Named in reference to the abdomen.

Abdomen.—Short, broad, rugged, tuberculated, densely hairy, vertical, not overhanging base of cephalothorax; in front the base is naked, pitchy black; above this, and towards apex, the surface is densely clothed with yellowish-grey hairs; the summit is convex, tuberculated, and densely clothed with tawny hairs, the tubercles of varying size and coniform; laterally, the surface is wrinkled, densely clothed with short greyish hairs, and furnished with a few small, obtuse tubercles; behind, from spinnerets to apex the surface is clothed laterally with greyish hairs, and in the median line with a large leaf-like patch of yellowish pubescence; at the summit of the posterior elevation there are two large lateral vertical protuberances composed of small coniform tubercles; between the latter there are two small but distinct depressions or punctures, and a little in front of these, two others rather more widely separated; a little more than midway between the lateral tubercular protuberances and spinnerets, the surface is somewhat depressed, and there are in addition two widely separated but distinct punctures; the lower extremity of the posterior elevation is wrinkled transversely and obtusely pointed.

Obs.—I am indebted to Mr. J. J. Walker who collected the specimen, for the following interesting field note:—

“While beating a withered bush near Fremantle for beetles, I noticed a small and active spider in the umbrella. It ran rapidly up to a broken twig, which it clasped closely with all its legs bunched up as it were beneath the cephalothorax; then elevating the rather elongate abdomen at right angles to the twig, the resemblance to a dry bud was complete. To such a degree of perfection was this resemblance carried, that I am sure no one could have detected the spider when at rest in this position.”

Loc.—Fremantle, W. Australia.

Family THOMISIDÆ.

Genus *Dixea*, *Thor*.

DIXEA MULTIMACULATA,³ *sp. nov.*

(Figs. 30, 31.)

Female: Cephalothorax 2·9 mm. long, 2·9 mm. broad; abdomen 5·8 mm. long, 5·8 mm. broad.

³ *Multus*—Much or many, and *maculata*, stained, spotted. So named in reference to the colouration.

Cephalothorax.—As long as broad, arched, truncated in front, pale yellowish, ornamented by two dark brown longitudinal lateral bars, which are uneven in outline, broadest posteriorly, gradually tapering towards the front, where they are united by a transverse bar of a somewhat paler hue and which covers the ocular area. *Pars cephalica* slightly elevated in front, truncated, sloping posteriorly, rounded off at sides; segmental groove distinct. *Clypeus* broad, arched. *Pars thoracica* broad, convex, radial grooves faintly distinct. *Marginal band* broad.

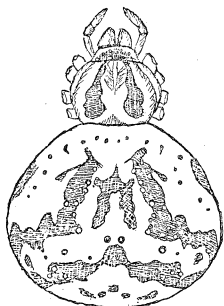


Fig. 30.
Dicaea multimaculata.

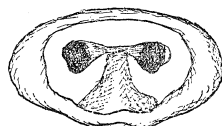


Fig. 31.
D. multimaculata,
Epigyne.

Eyes.—Black; each mounted upon a small tubercle, and surrounded by an opalescent ring; the tubercles carrying the four lateral eyes (especially those of the second row) are much the largest; of the two rows, the anterior is the shortest and the most strongly recurved; each row has four eyes; those comprising the second row are small, and each lateral eye is separated from its inner neighbour by a space equal to about six times its individual diameter, and the median pair by a space equal to about four diameters; of the anterior row each eye is separated from its neighbour by a space equal to about two diameters; of these each lateral eye is slightly larger than those of the posterior row, and the median pair, again, are somewhat larger than the lateral eyes.

Legs.—Yellowish, moderately pubescent and armed with the usual spines; the first and second pairs are much the longest, and each of these have a few pitchy black spots on the femur and patella, whilst the tibia has a broad concolorous band at its lower extremity; third and fourth pairs immaculate. Relative lengths: 1 = 2, 4, 3.

Palpi.—Short, pale yellowish.

Falces.—Short, strong, concolorous.

Maxillæ.—Short, widest at base, apices inclining inwards; the base and inner and outer side of each maxilla pale yellowish; the median area dark brown.

Labium.—Long, arched, apex obtusely pointed; base pale yellow; apex dark brown.

Sternum.—Shield-shaped, glossy, sparingly clothed with long hairs or bristles, arched, pale yellowish except in front, where there is a broad slightly recurved transverse bar of dark brown; this bar, however, does not quite reach the sides.

Abdomen.—Broadly ovate projecting over base of cephalothorax, strongly arched, straw yellow, relieved by a series of large black and brownish patches, and large and small concolorous spots, both above and laterally; ventrally the surface is straw yellow, with two moderately large brownish spots immediately in front of the spinnerets.

Epigyne.—As in figure.

Hab.—Perth, W. Australia.