

A DESCRIPTION OF *HETEROMETOPIA ARGENTEA*  
MACQUART (*DIPTERA DEXIIDÆ*).

BY

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(Plate xxxvii.)

This paper is the first of a series in which it is proposed to describe, more thoroughly than has hitherto been done, those Australian species of the Calyptrata which are the typical forms of various genera proposed by the earlier authors such as Macquart and Walker.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in determining the genera and species that were described by most of these earlier authors, partly owing to the inadequate descriptions, and partly to the lack of the complete literature dealing with the subject; nevertheless a certain amount of recent and useful information has been and is still being published upon this group of Diptera, and this, together with the literature available at the present time, has made it possible for me to ascertain the identity of various species.

The Dexid described here was originally placed under the Tachinidæ, and besides being typical of its genus it is the origin of a curious phenomenon which forms a subject matter under the notes. Moreover the sexes are determined, and the female is now described for the first time, unless perchance it has been described previously under another name.

*HETEROMETOPIA ARGENTEA* Macquart.

(Plate xxxvii.)

*Heterometopia argentea* Macquart, Dipt. Exot. suppl. 1, 1846, p. 170; Pl. xvi., fig. 1.

*Colours*.—Seen from the front the whole dorsal surface of the male appears to be silvery; this is due to a tomentum which is seen at its best in this position. As the insect is turned to some other position the ground colours become apparent, and are seen at their best when viewed from the rear. There is less silvery tomentum in the female, and the ground colours can be seen at any angle.

In the male the head appears to contain brownish, yellowish, and black colours; the frontal suture is closed. In the female the head is mostly brownish, and the frontal suture is open and black. The eyes are black. The antennæ are black, with the basal joints and the first segment of the arista brown. In the male the thorax and scutellum are black; in the female these areas are mostly black, but more or less covered with a white tomentum. Anteriorly to the transverse suture the female has the anterior border and sides, and also two median stripes, covered with a white tomentum, which further covers the apical quarter of the thorax and the whole of the scutellum.