

## AUSTRALIAN NYCTERIBIIDAE.

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(Plates xlv-xlv.)

Only four species of Nycteribiidæ have hitherto been recognised from Australia, and to these I add a fifth which appears to be new. As the bat fauna of Australia is large, this number should certainly be increased in the future, for the group has been somewhat neglected owing to lack of material due to the failure on the part of mammal collectors to secure the parasites. Of recent years, however, the importance of securing animal parasites with all particulars has been fully realised by Mr. E. Le G. Troughton, Mammalogist of the Australian Museum, to whom I am greatly indebted for his efforts in securing material for me.

In 1901 Speiser<sup>1</sup> described a male Nycteribid, parasitic on *Chalinolobus gouldi* Gray, collected at Smithfield, N.S. Wales. He identified it as *Nycteribia oceanica* Bigot<sup>2</sup>, a New Caledonian species from an unknown host. Falcoz<sup>3</sup> has since pointed out that the description given by Speiser could not apply to Bigot's species, the true *oceanica* possessing ocelli and showing a remarkable reduction of the ctenidium (14 teeth in that of the male) while in Speiser's specimen the eyes are absent and the ctenidium is well developed (60 teeth). As Falcoz omitted to suggest another name for Speiser's species, and as this institution is fortunate in possessing specimens which agree with Speiser's description, I here propose to describe the species as new, figure the male and female, the latter being quite unknown to Speiser.

In 1904 Rainbow<sup>4</sup> added a new species *Nycteribia pteropus*, a parasite of the Flying-fox *Pteropus gouldi* Peters from the Gulf of Carpentaria. He erroneously believed it to be the first Nycteribid to be made known from Australia, and being unable to refer to Speiser's monograph of the group failed to place it in its correct genus. According to Speiser's key *pteropus* enters the genus *Cyclopodia*, having three oblique white bands on the tibia. The species has been recently characterised and refigured by Ferris<sup>5</sup> as *Cyclopodia pteropus*, but that author questions its specific status, and suggests that it cannot be separated from *C. similis* Speiser.

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<sup>1</sup> Speiser—Arch. Naturg., lxxvii, 1, 1901, p. 41.

<sup>2</sup> Bigot—Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. (6), v, 1885, p. 246.

<sup>3</sup> Falcoz—Nova Caledonia, iii, 1923, p. 86.

<sup>4</sup> Rainbow—Rec. Austr. Mus., v, 1904, p. 78, pl. ix.

<sup>5</sup> Ferris—Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 110, 1924, p. 5, f. 5.