

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

McKeown, Keith C., 1936. Description of the male of *Clemacantha regale*
Rainbow. *Records of the Australian Museum* 19(6): 380–382. [7 October 1936].

doi:10.3853/j.0067-1975.19.1936.707

ISSN 0067-1975

Published by the Australian Museum, Sydney

nature culture **discover**

Australian Museum science is freely accessible online at
<http://publications.australianmuseum.net.au>
6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010, Australia



DESCRIPTION OF THE MALE OF *CLEMACANTHA* *REGALE* RAINBOW.

By

KEITH C. MCKEOWN

(Assistant Entomologist, the Australian Museum, Sydney).

(Figures 1-3.)

In 1897 (*) the late W. J. Rainbow described a new genus and species of Phasmid under the name *Clemacantha regale* from a female example received from Narrabri, New South Wales. The species is a remarkable one, being the largest recorded from Australia, as well as being of exceptional beauty and delicacy of colour.

The male of this species remained unknown until January 29, 1933, when Capt. F. H. Andrew forwarded specimens of a male and female taken *in cop.* at Kempsey, New South Wales. Opportunity is now taken to describe the male. The female with which the male was paired was received in poor condition.

Two eggs were contained in the boat-shaped ovipositor of the female, and one of these is now figured as providing another link in the life history of this magnificent species. These eggs are, as usual in those of the Phasmidæ, very distinctive and quite unlike those of any other species known to me.

The original figure of the female is not entirely satisfactory, so I have had a new figure prepared by Miss N. B. Adams, of the Australian Museum, so that reliable illustrations of both sexes may now be available.

The location of the type female was not stated in Rainbow's paper, and it was presumed that it was housed in the Australian Museum, but a search of the collection has failed to reveal it. Its whereabouts are, therefore, unknown.

Clemacantha regale is represented in the Australian Museum collection by examples from Uralla, Camira Creek via Casino, Boomi, Laurieton, Kempsey, Singleton, and Garrawilla via Mullaley, New South Wales; Jandowie via Dalby, and Longreach, Queensland; Katherine, North Australia, Derby, North-West Australia, and Groote Eylandt.

Order **ORTHOPTERA.**

Family **PHASMIDAE.**

Sub-family **PTEROPHASMINA.**

Genus ***Clemacantha*** Rainbow.

Clemacantha Regale Rainbow, 1897.

♂. Measurements: Length from base of antennae to tip of abdomen, excluding anal styles, 142 mm.; length of head, 7 mm.; antennae, 55 mm.; thorax, 51 mm.; abdomen, 84 mm.; anal styles, 17 mm.; anterior femora, 35 mm.; hind femora, 38 mm.; wing, 90 mm.; tegmina, 27 mm.; greatest width of abdomen, 4 mm.; wing, 39 mm.; tegmina, 6 mm.

* Rainbow.—Records Australian Museum, iii, 2, 5 Aug., 1897, p. 34, pl. ix.

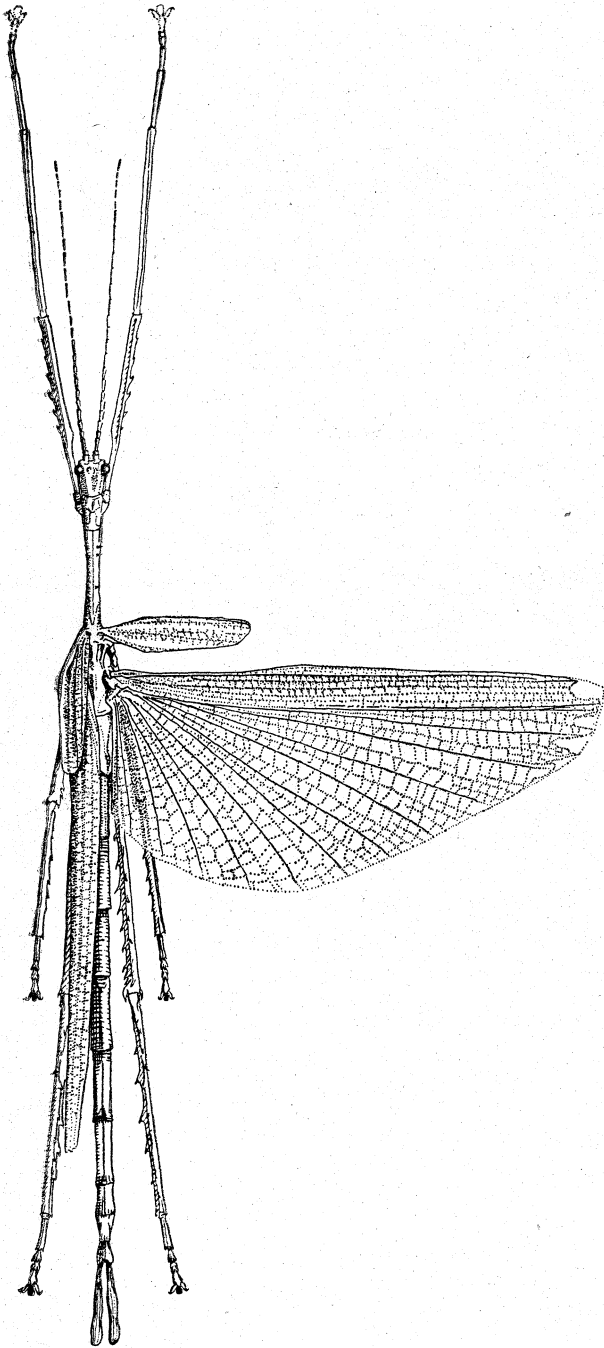


Fig. 1.—*Clemacantha regale* Rainb., male. (Slightly reduced).

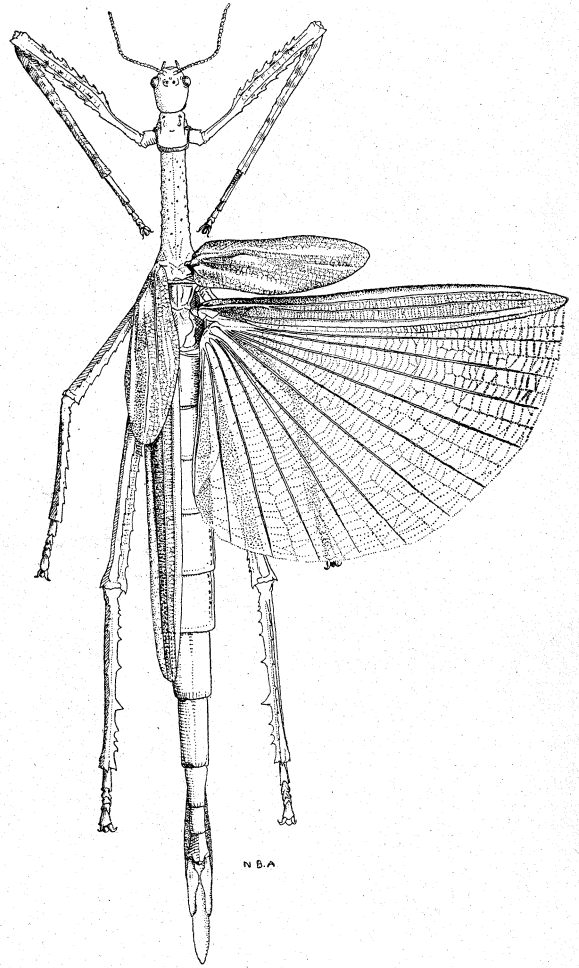


Fig. 2.—*Clemacantha regale* Rainb., female. (Reduced).

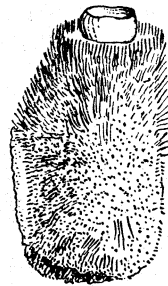


Fig. 3.—*Clemacantha regale* Rainb., egg. ($\times 5$).

Head.—Pale yellow; face pale yellow; eyes black; ocelli bright yellow; antennae slender, 26-jointed, slightly pubescent.

Pronotum.—Green above, laterally yellowish; mesonotum light green, the upper and lower surface furnished with spines varying in size and shape; those above are slender and acutely pointed, brown above and green below; a single minute point occurs anteriorly on the median line, while the others (six in number) are placed somewhat laterally to the median line, and are arranged in pairs; the spines on the ventral surface are six in number, arranged obliquely in pairs, blunt and little more than raised bosses; they are surrounded by patches of dark green; ventral surface of metanotum light green, with three pairs of obliquely placed spines surrounded by patches of dark green. The posterior spines are acute, but not as slender as those on the dorsal surface of the mesonotum. A number of minute spines are situated upon the lateral margins, terminating in a larger and more acute spine anteriorly to the attachment of the third pair of legs.

Abdomen.—Apparently greenish, but badly discoloured in specimen, tapering gradually toward extremity; anal styles green, long and slender.

Tegmina.—Elongate, ovate, slightly angled at humeral and anal angles, green with three longitudinal white bars.

Wings.—Above, the costal area bright green with a white longitudinal bar; beneath, green; membranous portion delicate bluish-green.

Legs.—Long and slender, with strongly-denticulated ridges, mottled with green and yellow; femora and tibiae strongly spined with a double row of spines below and a single row above on median line; first joint of tarsus longest; claws long and strongly curved; both front tarsi wanting.

Habitat.—Kempsey, New South Wales (Capt. F. H. Andrew.)

♂ Allotype in Australian Museum collection. Regd. No. K67496.

Note.—The allotype specimen was preserved in spirit when received, and was consequently somewhat bleached. This discolouration has become more pronounced with drying.

Egg.—Long, 7 mm.; broad, 4.5 mm.; shape somewhat irregular, with a rim of imbricated plates projecting outward around the apical plug; apical plug rounded, wider than long, with a marked convex depression at the apex; colour brown shading to grey, the whole surface finely granulated and closely resembling the texture of bark.