

OPILIONES FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

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(Figures 1-16.)

Very little is known of the Opiliones of the Solomon Islands. The only paper dealing with the opilionids of this area is that by Rainbow (*Rec. Aust. Mus.*, v, 10) in which he described one new species (*Liobunum aurum*) and recorded a further species, *Mesoceras spinigerum* Sor., from Russell Island. Through the kindness of Dr. A. B. Walkom, Director, Australian Museum, I have been able to examine Rainbow's material. The specimens determined by him as *Mesoceras spinigerum* Sor. prove to be an undescribed species of *Ibalonius* Karsch, which is described below as *I. rainbowi*, n. sp., while the species described as *Liobunum aurum* is placed in the genus *Gagrella* Stol. and is recorded below as *Gagrella aura* (Rainbow). In addition, a new genus and species of the Phalangodidae from Savo Island and a new species of *Gagrella* Stol. from Cape Esperance, Guadalcanal, are described.

Order OPILIONES.

Suborder PALPATORES.

Division EUPNOI Hans. and Sor.

Family PHALANGIIDAE Simon.

Subfamily GAGRELLINAE Thorell.

Gagrella neocera, sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-4.)

Colour.—Sclerotized areas of body, eye-mound and dorsal spine dark blackish-brown. Surface between sclerotic areas, pedipalps and chelicerae, yellowish-brown. Coxae blackish-brown.

Body.—Sclerotized areas finely granulate. Eye-mound rising from the middle of a strongly sclerotized cephalo-thoracic plate and directed slightly back, smooth, with a median longitudinal groove, along each side of which is a line of small pale setae. Second cephalo-thoracic plate narrow and extending below the scutum formed by the fusion of the first five tergal plates (fig. 1). Scutum without transverse grooves and with a strong, forwardly-directed spine at one-third. The three free tergites distinguished by transverse plates, but the anterior plate connected with the scutum in some specimens by a thickening of the intermediate integument.

Sternites represented by five transverse plates, a small triangular plate at each basal corner, and a further slender plate at each side of the genital operculum. Genital operculum as broad at the base as long, but narrowing distally. Lateral margins with row of small denticulations.

Pedipalpi.—Without apophysis. Femur below with a number of small peg-like denticulations, and a further proximal inner row of five; patella closely covered dorsally, and tibia with a proximal inner row of three and a ventral row of four similar denticulations. Tarsus smooth (fig. 3). All segments clothed with numerous short setae, rising directly from the surface of the integument and a smaller number of long setae rising from pits. Disto-ventral surface of tarsus with a number of comparatively stout pitted setae which, near the base of the claw, are modified into strong blunt rods with recurved tips. Tarsal claw with a ventral row of four strong teeth (fig. 4).