

A THIRD NEW BRITISH *PLASTOSCIARA* (DIPTERA, SCIARIDAE.)

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The species described below has been received for identification by Mr. Edward R. Speyer, Research Entomologist to the Nursery and Market Garden Industries Development Society. The specimens were obtained from the West End Nurseries, West Worthing, 25.v.1922, being reared in very large numbers from larvae attacking cucumber roots and stems.

On a previous occasion Mr. Speyer had obtained quantities of *Pnyxia scabiei* (Hopkins), damaging cucumber seedlings at Cheshunt. He suggested that the Worthing species might be the same, with a winged form of the female corresponding to the long-winged males of *P. scabiei*. An examination of the material, however, showed that this could not be the case, the species differing in very many respects from *P. scabiei* and being referable apparently to the genus *Plastosciara*. From the two known British species of this genus the Worthing insect differs in its much smaller size as well as in venational and other details. Although it may possibly have been described previously as a *Sciara*, it will be easier and more satisfactory to treat it as a new species, than to attempt to apply to it any one of the old incomplete descriptions. The spirit material sent by Mr. Speyer comprised some hundreds of females and about a dozen males.

*Plastosciara perniciosa*, sp. n.

*Head* black. Eyes bare, rather large, forming a distinct though narrow dorsal bridge, the portion from each eye being narrowed almost to a point, the points touching. Labium very small and short, not so large as one palp. Palpi pale, 2-segmented, apart from the very small and hardly distinguishable palpiger; first segment nearly globular, considerably enlarged in the ♀, much less so in the ♂; second segment very minute, each with a few short hairs. Antennae black, the flagellar segments with rather dense, uniform hair which is about as long as the diameter of the segments. First and last flagellar segments each a little longer than any of the others, the remaining segments in the ♂ each a little over half as long again as broad, and provided with a distinct neck, which is fully one-third as long as the remaining portion of the segment; in the ♀ these segments are very little longer than broad, and have shorter necks. *Thorax* blackish-brown, somewhat shining. Pleurae with rather extensive pale membranous areas. Scutellum with two distinct marginal bristles and some finer hairs; mesonotal hair short, dark and inconspicuous. *Abdomen* with the membranous parts whitish, the chitinised parts dark brown. In the ♂ all the tergites are uniformly chitinised; in the ♀ tergites 1 and 2 are membranous at the base, 3 and 4 uniformly chitinised, 5 with a tendency to weakening of the chitin in the middle, 6 and 7 chitinised only on the apical

and lateral margins. Sternites 3-5 in ♀ broad, 6-8 very narrow, all slightly but uniformly chitinised. Hypopygium of ♂ rather small; claspers not enlarged, slightly curved and tapering, a little over twice as long as their breadth at the base, with a single subterminal spine mixed with some hair; side pieces without patch of bristles at their ventral junction. Lamellae of ♀ 2-segmented, first segment roundish, second narrower and rather elongate-oval. Legs dark brownish, coxae and femora rather lighter. Hind coxae short, together with the trochanters less than two-thirds as long as the femora. Front and middle femora somewhat thickened. Tibiae without definite combs; spurs very short, considerably shorter than the diameter of the tibia. On the hind legs the proportions of the tibia and tarsal segments are roughly 48 : 22 : 10 : 7 : 6 : 7. Empodia minute; pulvilli not distinguishable; claws simple. Wings alike in the two sexes, slightly greyish-tinged; costal and radial veins dark and strong; media and cubitus devoid of macrotrichia, rather thin and faint, especially the stem of *M*. *R*<sub>1</sub> ending in costa far before the base of cell *M*<sub>1</sub>; *R*<sub>1</sub> shorter than *R*; costa extending about three-fourths of the distance between the tips of *R*s and *M*<sub>1</sub>; the horizontal *r-m* a little longer than the vertical portion of *R*s; median fork shorter than its stem, its branches slightly divergent apically; tip of *M*<sub>2</sub> considerably nearer the wing-tip than is the tip of *R*s. Cubital fork with a very short stem, which is rather difficult to detect owing to the fact that the base of *Cu*<sub>2</sub> is fainter than *An*, which latter vein approximates to *Cu*<sub>2</sub> and actually seems to unite with it distally, so that at first sight it appears to be the base of *Cu*<sub>2</sub>, and suggests the condition which occurs in *Pnyria*, where *Cu*<sub>2</sub> is quite separate from *Cu*<sub>1</sub>. Anal angle of wing only slightly indicated. Halteres with the knobs dark.

Length of wing, 1.2-1.5 mm.; length of body, ♂, 1-1.3 mm.; ♀, 1.5-1.8 mm.

British Museum (Natural History).

May 30th, 1922.

*The synonymy and distribution of Pantomorus godmani* Crotch, a cosmopolitan weevil attacking roses, greenhouse plants, etc.—Mons. A. Hustache (Bull. Soc. Ent. Fr. 1922, pp. 100, 101) has recently called attention to this destructive Otiorrhynchid-beetle, and correctly uses the name *Pantomorus godmani* Crotch for it. The Fayal types agree perfectly with N. American examples of *P. (Aramigus) fulleri* Horn. Like *Otiorrhynchus sulcatus* F. and *O. scabrosus* Marsh., both of which have also been introduced into the Azores, it seems to be gradually spreading into widely distant regions, but is certainly of American origin, the allied species being numerous in Tropical America. *P. godmani* appears to have been first described by Crotch, from specimens captured in the Azores in 1866, unless the Chilean *Naupaactus subvittatus* Fairm. et Germain (1861) is synonymous with it. The localities given by Hustache are as follows:—California, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Hawaiian Islands, Azores, Portugal, and Sicily. Mr. T. D. A. Cockerell met with it in Madeira during the past winter. The species is widely distributed in the United States, and is known there as "Fuller's rose-beetle." It is stated to attack roses,