

## NOTES ON FLEAS PARASITIC ON THE TIGER CAT.

By W. J. RAINBOW, F.L.S., Entomologist.

In a former number of the "Records of the Australian Museum,"<sup>1</sup> the late Mr. F. A. A. Skuse described what he supposed to be the male and female of a flea parasitic on the Australian Tiger Cat, *Dasyurus maculatus*, Kerr, and for the reception of the species founded a new genus, *Stephanocircus* (*S. dasyuri*, Sk.). Later, Mr. Carl F. Baker, of Fort Collins, Colorado, published a monographic list under the title of "Preliminary Studies in Siphonaptera,"<sup>2</sup> and in this work, not only questioned the validity of Skuse's genus, but also suggested<sup>3</sup> that the latter writer had probably confused two species, and that both were referable to known genera. For this reason Mr. Baker, whilst reprinting the description, declined to incorporate the genus and species as defined by Skuse in his table of the Pulicidæ. In answer to this Mr. Skuse published a short paper under the heading of "*Stephanocircus*, Sk.: A Rejoinder,"<sup>4</sup> in which he maintained the accuracy of his determination.

Fortunately the types of Skuse's species are in the collection of the Australian Museum, and a study of these has convinced me that two distinct forms were confused, and that each are referable to separate genera, but, having also carefully studied Taschenberg's descriptions and figures<sup>5</sup> together with Baker's Key to the genera, I am of opinion that Skuse's genus should stand, and that it should be amended so as to include not only *S. dasyuri*, Sk., but also *S. mars*, N. C. Rothsch.<sup>6</sup>

In order to assist the student in working out the systematic position of these insects, I reprint Baker's Key of the Pulicidæ,<sup>7</sup> adding thereto the characters of Skuse's genus, as I think they should be understood.

- a. Eyes well developed; antennæ with circular incisions or cleft only on one side; head and thorax usually stout and compact; head rarely angulated in front;

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<sup>1</sup> Skuse—Rec. Aust. Mus., ii., 5, 1893, p. 78, pl. xvii.

<sup>2</sup> Baker—Canadian Entomologist, xxvii., 1895, pp. 19-22, 63-66, 108-111, 130-132, 162-165, 186-191, and 221-2.

<sup>3</sup> Baker—loc. cit., p. 63.

<sup>4</sup> Skuse—Rec. Aust. Mus., ii., 7, 1896, p. 5.

<sup>5</sup> Taschenberg—Die Flöhe, 1880.

<sup>6</sup> N. C. Rothschild—Nov. Zool., v., 1898, p. 544, pl. xvi, fig. 11.

<sup>7</sup> Baker—loc. cit., p. 63.