

A NEW "BAT TICK."

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(Plate ix.)

During his recent visit to the Gulf of Carpentaria, my Colleague, Mr. C. Hedley, collected some Flying Foxes. These were duly handed to Mr. Edgar R. Waite, who identified them as *Pteropus gouldi*, Peters, and in the cloths in which they were packed, discovered a specimen of *Nycteribia*, Latr. Subsequently I made careful examination of all the flying foxes obtained, with the result that three other specimens of the parasite were brought to light.

In a former number of the "Records of the Australian Museum," the late Mr. F. A. A. Skuse published a paper entitled "Description of a New Flea (*Stephanocircus dasyurti*) from New South Wales; with Notes on some other Insect Parasites known in Australia,"¹ in which he said in respect of the family Nycteribidæ (Wingless "Bat Ticks")—"Some species known, but none yet described from Australia."² In the interval that has elapsed since the publication of Skuse's paper, two or three genera and a number of species have been described from different parts of the world, but none from this continent. The most elaborate paper yet published on the genus *Nycteribia* is that by J. O. Westwood—"On *Nycteribia*, a Genus of Wingless Insects,"³ and to this memoir the reader is referred.

The specimens collected are described below.

Family NYCTERIBIDÆ.

NYCTERIBIA PTEROPUS,⁴ *sp. nov.*

Male 4.7 mm. long.

Thorax.—Above: pale, nearly white; the groove in which the head rests when thrown back, dark brown; ventral surface mahogany brown, shining, finely granulated, flat; in front and between anterior and intermediate legs, the pectinated process peculiar to these insects, is prominent and dark brown; each pectine has fourteen teeth.

¹ Skuse—Rec. Aust. Mus., ii., 5, 1893, p. 77.

² Skuse—*Loc. cit.* p. 80.

³ Westwood—Trans. Zool. Soc., i., 1835, pp. 275-294, pl. 36.

⁴ So named in reference to its host.