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## A NEW "BAT TICK."

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

(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,"<sup>1</sup> in which he said in respect of the family Nycteribidæ (Wingless "Bat Ticks")—"Some species known, but none yet described from Australia."<sup>2</sup> 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,"<sup>3</sup> and to this memoir the reader is referred.

The specimens collected are described below.

### Family NYCTERIBIDÆ.

#### NYCTERIBIA PTEROPUS,<sup>4</sup> *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.

<sup>1</sup> Skuse—Rec. Aust. Mus., ii., 5, 1893, p. 77.

<sup>2</sup> Skuse—*Loc. cit.* p. 80.

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

<sup>4</sup> So named in reference to its host.

*Caput.*—Dark brown; the lateral elongated organs strongly setose; antennæ minute; upper margin of head furnished with setæ, the remainder smooth and depressed.

*Legs.*—Long, bristly. *Coxæ* and *trochanters* yellowish; each *femur* concolorous as far as the transverse impressions near the middle, thence dark brown; *tibiæ* dark brown with three oblique white bands; *metatarsi* long, dark brown, annulated; first three *tarsal joints* short, the terminal one long, and furnished with a pair of large *pulvilli*, and two strong curved claws.

*Abdomen.*—Dark brown, with six articulations, nearly black, oblong, finely and sparingly granulated, and moderately clothed with long bristles; on the underside the first abdominal articulation is armed with a row of obtusely pointed teeth or spines.

One specimen.

Female gravid forms 4·7 mm.; normal 3·6 mm.

*Thorax, caput* and *legs* similar to the male.

*Abdomen.*—In gravid forms oval, convex, and very slightly contracted behind the basal articulation; integument of upper surface yellowish-brown, granulated and naked, except at posterior extremity where there are lateral and apical tufts of long coarse bristles; there are also four rather large tubercles at the middle, arranged in pairs, and again on each side, equally as large, but wide apart, three more; the underside is similar in colour and granulation, but is clothed with short scale-like, adpressed hairs; there is also an anal pectinated process present; the first abdominal articulation as in the male form. In the unimpregnated female the abdomen is smaller than that of gravid examples, and also owing to not being distended, is apparently much darker.

Three specimens—two gravid, and one normal.

*Obs.*—There are in the Museum Collection some specimens of *Nycteribia* taken from *Pteropus*, and these were collected many years ago by Mr. G. Masters, at King George's Sound, W. Australia. They have, however, been mounted on card, and are much shrunken, and therefore unsuitable for accurate determination or description. They are much smaller than the form described above, much lighter in colour, and apparently otherwise distinct.

*Loc.*—Mapoon Mission Station, mouth of Batavia River, Gulf of Carpentaria.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE IX.

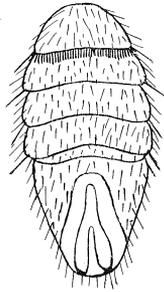
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NYCTERIBIA PTEROPUS, *Rainbow*.

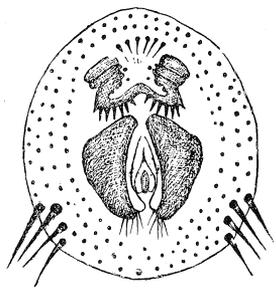
- Fig. 1. Male, from above.  
" 2. " profile.  
" 3. " abdomen, ventral view  
" 4. " 6th segment, profile.  
" 5. " head, from the side.  
" 6. " tarsus, profile.  
" 7. " tarsus, from beneath.  
" 8. Female, head from behind.  
" 9. " head from the front.  
" 10. " lateral thoracic pectinated process.  
" 11. " gravid, from beneath.  
" 12. " abdomen, normal from above.  
" 13. " abdomen, gravid from above.  
" 14. " extremity of abdomen, showing anal apparatus  
(All figures drawn by aid of an Abbé camera.)



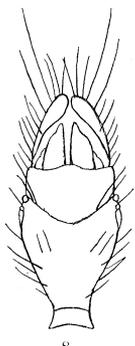
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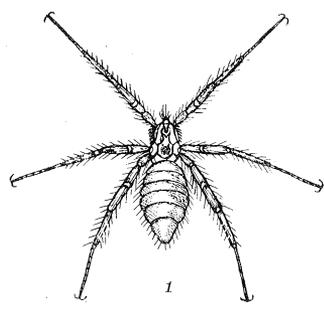
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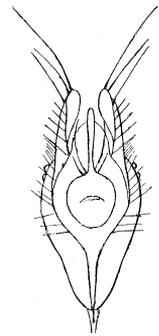
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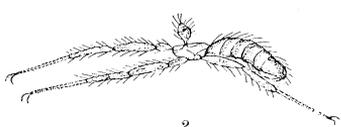
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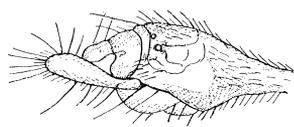
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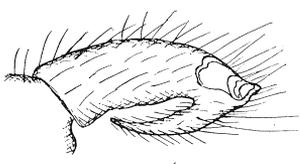
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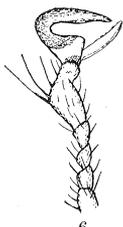
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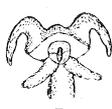
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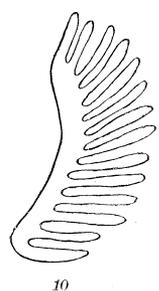
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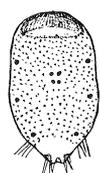
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