

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN SIPHONAPTERA.

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(Plate xxiii, and figs. 25-29).

Family RHYNCHOPRIONIDÆ.

Genus ECHIDNOPHAGA, Olliff.

Only one species of this genus is known, namely *E. ambulans*, Olliff. This extraordinary flea was obtained from a Porcupine Ant Eater—(*Tachyglossus aculeatus*, Shaw = *Echidna hystrix*). Olliff in his paper "Description of a New Aphanipterous Insect from New South Wales," says that it "was found in large numbers on a Porcupine Ant Eater (*Echidna hystrix*) which was recently added to the collection of the Australian Museum."<sup>1</sup> As a matter of fact I only know of three specimens, and these are in our cabinet. They are probably the only specimens in any collection. Our specimens are mounted on one slide and labelled "*Echidnophaga ambulans*, Olliff, on *Echidna hystrix*, N.S.W. TYPE."

ECHIDNOPHAGA AMBULANS, Olliff.

(Plate xxiii, and figs. 25, 26).

This insect was described by the late Mr. A. S. Olliff in the paper referred to above, but it was not figured. An examination and study of the type specimens reveal the fact that some corrections and amplifications (aided by figures) to the original description are necessary. The description below should therefore be read in conjunction with Olliff's. In this species the body is globose, smooth, free from hairs and bristles except in the region of the genital aperture.

*Antennæ* capitate, three-jointed (not four-jointed as stated by Olliff). *Eyes* prominent. *Caput* convex above. On the dorsal line, the pro-thorax is very short; the meta- and meso-thorax are longer and of equal length to each other.

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<sup>1</sup> Olliff—Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, (2), i., 1886, p. 172.