

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME AUSTRALIAN FLIES BELONGING  
TO THE *DIPTERA BRACHYCERA*.

BY

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(Plate xxxvi. and Figure 1.)

This paper contains the descriptions of a new genus and some new species of flies from Queensland, the material representing a portion of various recent collections from that State which I have been able to examine. I have also figured the allotype specimen of *Pelecorrhynchus fulvus* Ricardo, and added a reference under the same genus which was omitted in a previous paper. To Mr. D. J. Farrell I am indebted for assistance in the preparation of Plate xxxvi., figures 1, 2.

STRATIOMYIIDÆ.

Genus *PACHYGASTER* Meigen.

*Status*.—The two species placed here probably belong to the genus *Eupachygaster*, which was proposed by Kertész,<sup>1</sup> as they are to be distinguished by the following characters:—

The scutellum is about half as long as broad, and has a semicircular outer margin on which are situated many minute spines; in the male, however, the scutellum is triangular in shape, rounded at the apex, and slightly inclined. In the female the facets of the eyes are of uniform size, and in the male they are much smaller below than above, but there is no sharp contrast between the two sizes.

I am unable to satisfy myself that *Eupachygaster* Kertész and *Neopachygaster* Austen are generically distinct from *Pachygaster* Meigen, and without seeing both sexes one cannot place a new species very satisfactorily. In the present case the characters certainly come nearest to those given by Kertész for the genus *Eupachygaster*.

Dr. E. W. Ferguson has a female which he captured on a window of his residence at Roseville, near Sydney, and it is identical with *P. whitei* Hardy. A male and a female of a second species were taken by him in the same place, but the male has the scutellum inclined to a considerable extent, and both sexes differ from *P. whitei* in various other respects.

In the meanwhile, until more material is available, it seems advisable to retain the genus *Pachygaster* in the wide sense adopted by most authors.

Key to the Australian species of the genus *Pachygaster*.

1. Female with the thorax and abdomen evenly and densely punctate; scutellum with forty or more minute spines ..... *whitei* Hardy.  
Thorax of the female with considerably less and smaller punctures than those on the abdomen, which is densely punctate; scutellum with about thirty minute spines..... *nitens* sp. nov.

<sup>1</sup> Kertész—Congr. Int. Ent., ii., 1911, p. 31.