

## NOTES ON SOME GENERA OF BLATTIDÆ.

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The genus *Steleopyga* was established by Fischer von Waldheim in 1833<sup>1</sup> with three included species, *orientalis*, *americana* and *trichoprocta*, the last a new species and the first two, while not so listed, are known to be the *Blatta orientalis* of Linnæus and the *Blatta americana* of the same author. Now the type of *Steleopyga* must be one of the three above mentioned originally included species. The first of the originally included species, *orientalis*, is not eligible as it was designated as the type of *Blatta* by Latreille in 1810.<sup>2</sup> To date, so far as I know, *orientalis* is the only one of the originally included species that has been designated as type of *Steleopyga*.<sup>3</sup> The type is therefore as yet undesignated. The second originally included species, *americana*, has long been the designated type of *Periplaneta*, thus eliminating it from consideration as the type of *Steleopyga*. The third and last of the originally included species, *trichoprocta*, becomes therefore the type of *Steleopyga*.

*Blatta aegyptica* Linnaeus, the type species of the genus *Polyphaga* of Brullé, has as a synonym the *Steleopyga trichoprocta* of Fischer, shown above to be the type of *Steleopyga*. Thus *Polyphaga* Brullé and *Steleopyga* Fischer, having synonymous species as types, are themselves synonymous. *Polyphaga* therefore falls as a synonym of *Steleopyga*, being the more recent by two years. 2 Blatt., p. 30 (1907), designates *Blatta rhombifolia* Stoll as type of *Stylopyga* but it is not an originally included species of that genus.

In 1846<sup>4</sup> Fischer introduced a different spelling of his genus *Steleopyga*, spelling it *Stylopyga*, crediting it to himself, quoting the reference to its original proposal in 1833 and including but a single species, *Blatta orientalis* Linnæus, which is figured. This is obviously but a different spelling, or an emendation, of *Steleopyga* but it has recently been used as a distinct genus by Mr. Shelford,<sup>5</sup>

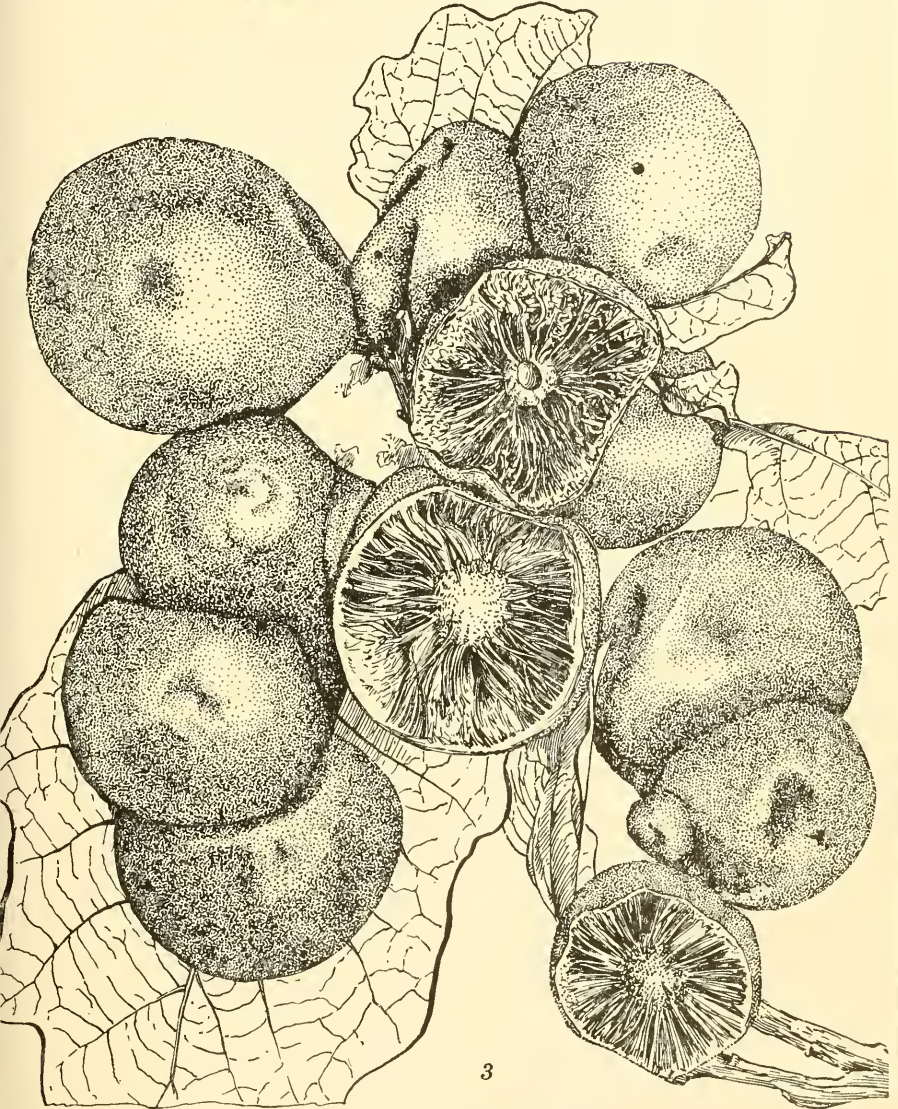
<sup>1</sup> Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, vol. vi, p. 356, 366 (1833).

<sup>2</sup> Consid. Crust., Arach. & Ins., p. 246.

<sup>3</sup> Shelford, Sjöstedt's Expedit. Kilim. Meru &c., 17, Orth.

<sup>4</sup> Orth. Russie, p. 68.

<sup>5</sup> Genera Insectorum, Fasc. 109, p. 14 (1910).



who quotes the original *Steleopyga* in the synonymy under *Blatta*. The only species, *orientalis*, included under this emended form by Fischer is not included by Shelford, who uses the name for a group of species typified by the *Blatta rhombifolia* of Stoll. This group of species which Mr. Shelford lists under *Stylopyga* is separable from the species of the genus *Blatta* only by the length and development of wings in the male and can thus all be logically referred to that genus. Therefore the twenty-five species listed by Shelford in the above paper are transferred to the genus *Blatta*.

The genus *Dorylæa* of Stal is very closely allied to *Blatta* and will eventually very likely prove a synonym of that genus.

### LUCILIA SERICATA AS A HOUSEHOLD PEST.

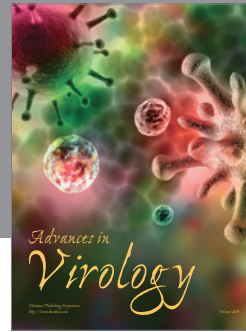
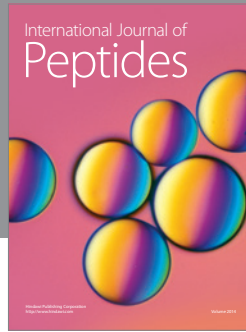
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In October, 1910, a lady asked me, "Why do worms prefer oriental rugs to Wilton carpets?" Inquiry revealed the fact that one of her friends was finding large numbers of white "worms" under her oriental rugs.

Naturally my first thought was of fleas and Dermestid larvæ, but the description was at variance with either, neither dogs or cats were about, the rugs had been recently cleaned, and the house was immaculately kept,—so I requested samples. In a few days a vial containing several Muscid maggots and a puparium was received. Careful questioning in regard to food material for such creatures finally secured the information that a squirrel family had been evicted recently from one of the chimneys and that one of the young squirrels, it was believed, had died in the flue. This clue accounted satisfactorily for the presence of the troublesome maggots and the sequel. With this introduction, the following extracts from letters concerning the outbreak will be self explanatory, due allowance being made, if thought necessary, for a possible, but under the circumstances, very pardonable, exaggeration in regard to the numbers of the pest.

[Nov. 23] "Mrs. ——— writes me that you would like to hear about our 'squirrels.' On Sept. 17 squirrel No. 1 came down the chimney and took possession of the lower part of the house,



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