

A competent coleopterist, my friend Mr. P. J. Darlington, now in Colombia, writes that he has obtained larvæ and adults of *Pelecium sulcatum*; and it is to be hoped that the curious life history indicated by my own fragmentary observations will soon be completely elucidated.

*References.*

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1905 Contribuzione alla conoscenza della metamorfosi e dei costumi della *Lebia scapularis* Fourc. Redia 2 (1): 68-84, pl. 3-7.

SOME COLOMBIAN PHORIDÆ FROM THE NESTS OF  
STINGLESS BEES.<sup>1</sup>

BY CHARLES T. BRUES.

Dr. George Salt recently gave me a series of several species of Phoridæ which he collected in the neighborhood of Santa Marta, Colombia during the course of some studies on the biology of certain stingless bees.

One of the species is undescribed, and as Dr. Salt wishes to refer to it in the account of his investigations, I take this opportunity to describe it.

**Melittophora**, gen. nov.

A member of the Platyphorinæ as defined by Schmitz. Body very broad and much flattened, with stout legs and fully developed wings in the female.

Head (Fig. 1, A) in front view slightly more than half wider than high, strongly flattened and closely applied to the thorax; the occipital margin acute and the posterior surface

<sup>1</sup>Contribution from the Entomological Laboratory of the Bussey Institution, Harvard University, No. 295.

concave; eyes small, distinctly pubescent. Front clothed with fine short hairs, longer along the lower margin; bristles small, twelve in number, distributed as follows; one at lower lateral angle, one just next the edge of the antennal cavity, one next the eye margin at middle of front, one near upper angle of the eye and four near upper margin in line with the lateral ocelli. Antennæ widely separated, oval in outline, with a nearly apical, bare arista. Proboscis well developed, nearly as long as the head-height; palpi small, but little longer than thick, with five moderately long bristles near the tip. Ridge between eye and

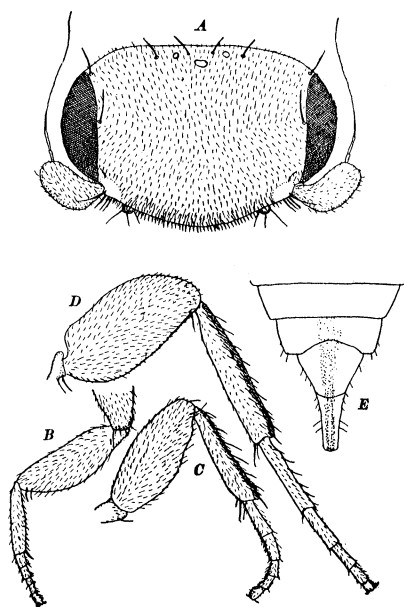


Fig. 1.—*Melittophora salti* sp. nov., female. A, front view of head; B, C, D, fore, middle and hind leg; E, apex of abdomen.

mouth opening with about eight very long and stout downwardly directed bristles, the two next the proboscis on each side closer together and weaker than the others; only the four on each side nearest the antennæ are long enough to be visible in front view. Ocelli well developed, the median one larger. Thorax broad, the mesonotum nearly one half wider than long with

about four bristles along each lateral margin. Scutellum very short and broad, fully four times as wide as long, with ten bristles along the posterior margin, placed as a series of four toward each side, with a widely separated pair at the middle. Abdomen very broad at the base, triangularly narrowed apically, and but little longer than wide at base; not hairy or bristly; second segment about four times as long as broad, twice as long as the third; third to fifth of about equal length; fifth with the apical margin concave; sixth subtriangular, as long as wide at base and as long as the second. The upper surface of the abdomen is nearly flat, except at apex, as the sixth segment bends down strongly. Ovipositor heavily chitinized, directed downwards and backwards, one-half as long as the abdomen. Legs very stout and short; the hind femora much flattened, more than one-third as broad as long; tibiæ with setulæ, but without any spines. Wings fully developed, very thin and transparent; costal vein reaching to the middle, with very short, closely placed bristles; first vein straight, meeting the costa near the tip; third vein not forked, but slightly thicker apically; last section of costa one-fourth as long as the preceding. Fourth to seventh veins very pale and delicate, scarcely discernible, the fourth curved at base, straight apically; fifth and sixth slightly sinuous, seventh curved.

Type species *M. salti* sp. nov.

This genus is related to *Euryphora* and *Microplatyphora* but differs from both in the chitinized ovipositor and the presence of fully developed wings in the female. It resembles the former more closely in the form of the greatly thickened legs, but the hind tibiæ are without large bristles.

♂      ♀  
***Milittophota salti* sp. nov.**

♀ Length 1.4-1.6. Black, including the halteres. Legs very dark brown or piceous. Wings hyaline, very highly transparent, the heavy veins black. Front and mesonotum subshining, clothed with very fine, microscopic, appressed hairs. Abdomen similar, but less noticeably shining, except at apex. Setulæ of hind tibiæ delicate, about nine in number, about half as

long as the width of the tibia; in addition the anterior surface of the tibia is clothed with very minute short bristles, grouped more or less distinctly into transverse rows.

Type and paratypes from Rio Frio, Magdalena, Colombia, October and November 1927 (George Salt); in nests of *Trigona amalthea* Olivier.

**Pseudohypocera Malloch**

Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 43, p. 439. figs. (1912).

**Pseudohypocera nigrofascipes Borgmeier**

Zeits. Deutscher Ver. Wissensch. u. Kunst, São Paulo., Jahrg. 3, p. 132 (1922)

Borgmeier, Arch. Mus., Nac. Rio Janeiro, vol. 25, p. 183 (1925)

There are a number of specimens of both sexes. The apical abdominal segment of the female is usually retracted, but when exerted it is seen that although the sixth and seventh segments are soft and membranous, the eighth is heavily chitinated to form an ovipositor. This is about twice as long as wide, slightly narrowed apically. Below the surface is faintly longitudinally aciculate, and above with a triangular smooth space basally and convergent aciculations apically. It is considerably flattened in cross section.

Rio Frio, Magd., Colombia; Sevilla, Magd., Colombia; August (George Salt), in nests of *Trigona amalthea* Olivier and *Melipona interrupta* Latr.

**Aphiochaeta scalaris Loew.**

This common and widespread species in the American tropics, is represented by numerous specimens. Rio Frio, Magd., Colombia, June-July (George Salt).

