

XIII. *Notes on Dorydium (?) westwoodi, Buchanan White, with observations on the use of the name Dorydium.* By WILLIAM F. KIRBY, F.L.S., F.E.S., Assistant in Zoological Department, British Museum (Nat. Hist.), South Kensington.

[Read February 28th, 1894.]

A FEW days ago I received a letter from Mr. Herbert Clark, of Christchurch, New Zealand, enclosing two specimens of a very curious Homopterous insect, which I have succeeded in identifying with *Dorydium westwoodi*, Buchanan White.

Mr. Clark writes, "I found it on the rushes which grow in damp situations. In colour and shape it so much resembles a piece of dried rush that I have never been able to find a specimen except by switching the net amongst them. I think they are scarce and very local, as the specimens I have captured were taken in a space a few yards square, and I have never been able to collect them elsewhere. The place where they were found was in a plantation of *Pinus insignis* about a quarter of a mile from the sea, and a few chains from the river. The time of appearance is from the beginning of November to the end of the year."

The insect belongs to the family *Jassidæ*, and the references are as follows:

Dorydium westwoodi.

Buchanan White, Ent. M. Mag., xv., p. 215 (1879);
Signoret, Ann. Soc. Ent. France (5), x., p. 43,
pl. 1, fig. 38, details (1880).

One of the specimens received from Mr. Clark is a perfect insect (a male, I think), and the other a pupa, as may be seen by the rudimentary tegmina. The mature specimen measures 9 lines in length, and agrees with

Buchanan White's description better than with Signoret's, except in size (Signoret gives 11 mm., and Buchanan White 14). The insect is probably variable in size and markings, or in the absence of markings, or there may be more than one allied species; without a good series, and perhaps observation of the living insects, it might be difficult to clear up this point.

Buchanan White received three specimens from Wakefield, which had been taken by Fereday near Christchurch. He remarks, "This curious species strongly resembles the seed of one of the larger grasses."

Signoret received his specimens from John Scott; they appear to be darker than the types; but the allied Australian species described by G. R. Waterhouse (Trans. Ent. Soc., ii., p. 195) under the genus *Cephalelus*, differ much in size and colour. They differ, too, from the species referred to *Dorydium* by the longer and more tapering frontal prominence.

There is a curious confusion relating to the genera *Cephalelus* and *Dorydium* which I will try to clear up. In 1832, Percheron (Mag. Zool. Cl. ix., pl. 48) described and figured a species from an unknown locality, which he called *Cephalelus infumatus*.

In 1839, Burmeister (Handb. Ent., ii., p. 106) described an insect from the Cape under the name of *Dorydium paradoxum*, but at p. 1006 stated, that his insect was identical with Percheron's, and shortly afterwards figured it as such in his "Genera Insectorum." Instead of dropping the generic name, as he was bound to do, he used it again for an allied insect from Sicily, which he described and figured as *Dorydium lanceolatum*. This figure is referred to at p. 1006, and appears to have been published while Part II. of the "Handbuch" was passing through the press, and would, therefore, have priority over it.

Nor does the confusion end here. In 1837, Herrich-Schäffer described (Panzer, Heft 144, pl. 6) an insect from Nuremberg as *Jassus paradoxus*; oddly enough, another species with a long frontal prominence, though, judging from the figure, I should say that it is certainly not congeneric with either *Dorydium* I. (*Cephalelus*), or *Dorydium* II. Signoret (Ann. Soc. Ent. France (5), ix., pp. 259-265) confuses everything. Firstly, he gives the genus *Cephalelus* with four species: *infumatus*,

Perch., and *percheroni*, Guér.,* from South Africa, and *C. marginatus* and *brunneus*, G. R. Waterhouse, from Australia. I may say that the two latter are closely allied to, if not actually congeneric with, *Dorydium* (?) *west-woodi*, and do not belong to the South African genus *Cephalelus*. Next to *Cephalelus*, Signoret places the genus *Dorydium*, with the two species, *D. lanceolatum* and *paradoxum*, Burm.; but for the latter he gives the locality Paris; and his insect is evidently *paradoxus*, Herrich-Schäffer; Burmeister's species being, as we have seen, *Cephalelus infumatus*, Perch., or a closely-allied species.

It is clear that *D. lanceolatum*, Burm., must be regarded as the type of *Dorydium*, and that most of the species referred to *Dorydium* will have to be removed either to *Cephalelus* or new genera formed for them, if necessary. But this task I will leave to the next specialist who takes up the *Jassidæ*.

* I cannot find a reference to this species, and suspect it may be an error.



Kirby, W. F. 1894. "XIII. Notes on Dorydium (?) westwoodi, Buchanan White, with observations on the use of the name Dorydium." *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* 42, 411–414.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2311.1894.tb02086.x>.

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