

shaped nests are replaced by a small pyramidal design, some four or five feet high, irregular in shape, terminating in several sharp spires, which I found very useful as cover when shooting driven game. The material appears to be the same but here we did not observe any of the ferruginised termitaria, nor did I notice their use as road metal, perhaps because there is rock in the neighbourhood in the form of a doleritic dyke.

A new British Proctotrupid of the subfamily Belytinae.

By G. E. J. NIXON.

Brunicophilus, gen. nov.

Head: Eyes entirely glabrous, small, very smooth and strongly shining. Antennae: 15-jointed in the ♀, 14-jointed in the ♂; the 1st joint of the funicle in the ♂ is deeply excised on its basal half. Clypeus strongly convex. Mandibles short, projecting forwards, their apices touching but not crossing. Vertex behind with a short band of woolly hair.

Thorax: Prothorax with a conspicuous collar of woolly hair similar to that of the vertex. Scutellum with a very large transverse hollow anteriorly; the length of this hollow is equal to that of the convex part of the scutellum beyond it. Wings: marginalis moderately long; stigmalis short, at right angles to the marginalis; postmarginalis inconspicuous, about as long as the stigmalis; radius very long. Hindwing without a trace of a basal cell.

Abdomen: petiole short, strongly swollen medially and appearing constricted at each end. Apex of the abdomen laterally compressed in the ♀, simple in the ♂.

Type of the genus, *donisthorpei*, mihi.

Brunicophilus donisthorpei, sp. nov.

♀ *Colour*: somewhat variable; light yellowish brown; the head usually darker, approaching reddish brown. Antennae and legs always conspicuously pale.

Head: large, spherical, very smooth and strongly shining, and bare except for sparse, inconspicuous, fine hairs. The distance between the antennal insertions and the occipital margin over the head is evenly semicircular. Eyes very small, their length only a little longer than half that of the scape. The distance between the eyes and the mandibles is considerably greater than the length of the eyes themselves. Antennae: scape a little shorter than the following 4 joints together, and having on each side at its apex a small triangular projection; pedicel strongly narrowed basally; first 6 joints of the funicle very close-set and of equal width; 1st joint twice as long as wide and as long as the following 2 joints together; joints 2-6 nearly square in outline; joints 7-13 becoming gradually wider; 9-12 well separated, bead-like; 13th large, oval, wider than the preceding joint, about as long as the 11th and 12th together. If the head be viewed from the side, there is a conspicuous angulation between the convex clypeus and the mandibles.

Thorax: Mesonotum slightly narrower than the head, very smooth

and shining, virtually glabrous, having only a few fine upstanding hairs. Parapsidal furrows represented by extremely fine, weakly impressed lines which anteriorly are quite distinct, but which fade out long before reaching the posterior edge of the mesonotum. Propodeum divided by 3 sharply defined carinae into 2 shining areas, which are longer than wide; the middle carina becomes almost imperceptibly forked at its base.

Wings: marginalis about equal in length to that part of the subcostalis between the upper origin of the basalis and the basal limit of the marginalis itself; postmarginalis hardly as long as the stigmatis; a false radius encloses a long radial cell which is about twice as long as the marginalis.

Abdomen: petiole somewhat shining, clothed with long whitish hairs. 1st sternite, seen from the side, forming a prominent angulation at its base; this angulation is nearly right-angled, and is thickly clothed with whitish hairs. The apex of the abdomen becomes suddenly and strongly constricted laterally.

Length: 2.3-3.4mm.

♂ differs from the ♀ only in the following respects:—

Head: Antennae with the scape a little longer than the following 2 joints together; pedicel about as wide as long; funicle clothed with short inconspicuous hairs; 1st joint twice as long as the pedicel, deeply excised on its basal half, the side opposite to the excision slightly bowed; following joints subequal in length, about two-thirds as long as the 1st, all becoming narrowed towards their base, especially the apical ones.

Abdomen: 1st ventrite without an angulation at its base; apex of abdomen somewhat flattened dorsally.

Length: 2.5-2.7mm. Types in Coll. Donisthorpe.

Berkshire, Windsor Forest; in nests of the ant *Acanthomyops brunneus*, Latr.

This genus is closely related to *Acanosema*, Kieffer, and differs from it, apparently, only in having no basal cell in the hindwing. The woolly collar on the pronotum and on the vertex, its smooth shining surface, combined with a certain delicateness of appearance render this little species superficially very like a *Diapriine*.

I have pleasure in naming this interesting insect in honour of its captor, Mr. H. St. J. Donisthorpe, to whose indefatigable energies in the field we owe yet another addition to our list of British Hymenoptera.

Some Observations on Aleurodidae.

By. J. W. HESLOP HARRISON, D.Sc., F.R.S., F.R.S.E.

Although I have published but little recently concerning the *Aleurodidae*, my interest in them has continued unabated, and I have never ceased collecting them for the purposes of study. Naturally, therefore, I commenced to read Marriner's paper (*Ent. Rec.*, Feb. 1931) with some zest. However, my interest changed to dismay as I proceeded, for so many points in it revealed themselves as demanding criticism.

In the first place, the title seems quite inaccurate. If the word "Aleurodes" is intended to be the title of the most important



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The entomologist's record and journal of variation 43, 83–84.

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