

XIV. *Descriptions of new species and a new genus of Cicadidæ from Madagascar.* By W. L. DISTANT.

[Read June 7th, 1882.]

PLATE XV.

THE more we see of the Rhynchotal fauna of Madagascar the greater is the amount of structural specialisation apparent, and its distinct character revealed. This is particularly the case with the Cicadidæ, and every species of the widely distributed Genus *Platypleura* which has yet been received from Madagascar has proved new to Science. I have added the description of another species here, and also of a new genus possessing an inflated abdomen, a character found in genera distributed in South Africa, Australia, and Polynesia.

*Platypleura pulvereæ*, n. s. (Pl. XV., figs. 1, 1a, 1b).

Body above ochraceous. Head with a black spot in centre of front, and with a marginal black line; its vertex with the following black markings:—a transverse band near each anterior angle, a waved transverse fascia between the eyes, widened at ocelli and surrounding the same in the shape of a subquadrate spot, on each side of posterior margin of which is a linear streak followed by a rounded spot and with an irregularly shaped spot on the inner margin of the eyes. Pronotum with the following black markings:—an acutely angled fascia on each side of disk, the inner line of which has a transverse base, a small arcuate spot beneath this, two oblique lateral fasciæ, and two rounded contiguous spots on centre of inner border of posterior margin. Mesonotum with the following black markings:—two short obconical spots on anterior margin, the apices of which are dentate, beneath these a central triangular spot followed by two round spots, and on each side an oblique submarginal fascia. A black spot on anterior branches of cruciform basal elevation. Abdomen with the basal margins of the abdominal segments black. Body beneath



ochraceous; apex of face, a central line and apex to rostrum, bases and apices of anterior and intermediate femora, apices of tibiae, two spots on anterior trochanters, posterior margins of intermediate coxæ, a linear streak on intermediate and posterior trochanters, base of abdominal segments, and a central longitudinal streak on apical segment, fuscous. Opercula fuscous thickly covered with grey pubescence, and with their posterior margins narrowly ochraceous.

Tegmina hyaline; costal membrane and area, and venation ochraceous; transverse veins at apices of ulnar areas infuscated; a spot on costa near base, and a smaller one beneath it, two spots in radial area, two or three spots in each of the four upper ulnar areas, fuscous; apices of apical veins infuscated and thickened at each end. Wings pale hyaline, the veins pale ochraceous.

The face is broad, slightly convex, with a very broad longitudinal sulcation and strong transverse striations, the upper striæ black, their interstices broad. Rostrum long, passing the posterior coxæ. The pronotal margins are considerably amplified, and obtusely angulated about the middle. The opercula are short and broad, their inner margins overlapping, their lateral margins obliquely rounded, their posterior margins convexly rounded and about reaching base of first abdominal segment. Long. ♂ 31 mm. Exp. tegm. 94 mm. Long. ♀ (one spec.), 37 mm. Exp. tegm. 105 mm.

*Hab.* Madagascar (E. L. Arnold).

#### MALAGASIA, n. g.

Head including eyes much narrower than base of pronotum, ocelli situate on disk of vertex and distant from base of head. Antennæ moderately long and slender, the first joint strongly incrassated. Pronotum compressed and narrowed towards head, the lateral margins obtusely dentate, the posterior angles amplified, flattened and rounded. Rostrum about reaching posterior coxæ. Tegmina hyaline, the space between the postcostal vein and the postcostal ulnar ramus amplified towards apex; apical areas eight, first or upper longer than second, ulnar veins separate and parallel at bases; the basal area considerably longer than broad. Wings hyaline, with six apical areas. Abdomen globose,



strongly convex above and somewhat flattened beneath; apical segment attenuated; tympana totally detached from first abdominal segment; opercula small, not covering the tympanal orifices. Anterior femora armed with strong spines beneath.

This genus I have placed next to *Prasia*, Stål, to which it has many affinities, but from which the amplified apical space between the post-costal vein and the post-costal ulnar ramus will alone distinguish it.

*Malagasia inflata*, n. s. (Pl. XV., figs. 2, 2a—d).

♀. Head and pronotum ochraceous or greenish. Head with a black submarginal border to front and with two transverse black fasciæ on vertex, the first at anterior margin of eyes, the second at base and extending along posterior margins of eyes. Pronotum with a waved, denticulated and rounded, black fascia on each side of disk, and with a broad submarginal black streak. Mesonotum with the following black markings:—two large obconical spots commencing at anterior margin, with their apices continued in a curved line and terminating in a rounded spot in front of each anterior branch of the basal cruciform elevation; on each side of these markings is a long irregular fascia, commencing at base and terminating in a somewhat rounded angulation near the anterior angles of basal elevation, and a somewhat rounded spot on each lateral margin. Abdomen dark ochraceous, with a faint black longitudinal central line. Head beneath, legs, sternum, and opercula, ochraceous or greenish; anterior femora black beneath; abdomen beneath ochraceous. Tegmina and wings pale hyaline, with the venation ochraceous; transverse vein at apex of lower ulnar area of tegmina fuscous.

The face is broad, but moderately convex, with a narrow but deep central and longitudinal sulcation, and with very strong transverse striations, the interstices of which are very broad. The anterior femora are strongly incrassated, and armed beneath with three black spines near apex, two of which are longest; all the tarsal claws are fuscous. The opercula are small and sub-triangular, the lateral margins straight and very oblique, the apex obtusely rounded and about reaching base of first abdominal segment. The posterior portion of the mesonotum and the upper surface of the abdomen is



very faintly and sparsely pilose or pubescent. Long. 40 to 42 mm., Exp. tegm. 98 to 108 mm.

*Hab.* Madagascar.

I possess a female specimen from Antananarivo, which appears to denote another species of this genus. Without, however, there are very strong structural differential characters, or the markings of the tegmina are very distinct, our knowledge of the *Cicadidæ* is little assisted by the description of solitary female specimens as new species, and I have therefore refrained from that course.

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#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE XV.

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FIG. 1. *Platypleura pulverea*.

1a. Under side of head, showing face.

1b. Under side of abdomen, showing opercula and rostrum.

2. *Malagasias inflata*.

2a. Under side of head, showing face.

2b. Under side of abdomen, showing opercula and rostrum.

2c. Side view of abdomen, showing inflation and anal appendage.

2d. Apex of anal appendage, as seen above.



Distant, William Lucas. 1882. "XIV. Descriptions of new species and a new genus of Cicadidæ from Madagascar." *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* 30, 335–338. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2311.1882.tb01579.x>.

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