

IX. *Notes on Dyscritina longisetosa*, Westw. By
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[Read March 18th, 1896.]

THE accompanying figures represent what I suppose to be a more advanced stage of the interesting little insect described by the late Prof. Westwood, under the name of *Dyscritina longisetosa* (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., 1881, p. 601, pl. xxii., fig. 1).

My example of the insect is rather darker coloured than the type, the whole of the upper parts being dark reddish-brown, without any pale bands on the abdomen; it has, however, the two small pale patches on the posterior angles of the prothorax; and there is a pale median line bisecting each of the thoracic tergites longitudinally, which is carried forwards to the middle of the head, where it bifurcates, the branches turning sharply off to a point on the margin immediately in front of the eyes.

Westwood does not definitely state the dimensions of his insect; but gives 8 lines as the length of the caudal filaments, remarking that these are "nearly three times the length of the entire insect." In his figure, however, he gives a scale, indicating the lengths of the parts, by which I find that the body is 6 mm. long, and each filament 17 mm. In my specimen these proportions are considerably altered, the body being 8 mm. long, while the caudal appendages attain a length of only $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

In Westwood's description these caudal appendages are said to be composed of more than fifty minute articulations. In the present specimen, the two appendages, though nearly of equal length, consist of a different number of joints, there being seventeen in one and twelve only in the other. I at first thought that they might be imperfect; but a careful examination of the extremities shows a natural rounded termination quite unlike the apices of the preceding joints. There is a very long basal joint, about equal to the subsequent six; the remaining

joints are subequal in length, but gradually diminish in

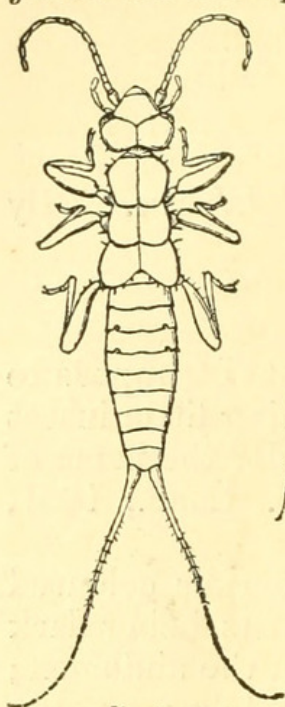


fig. 1.

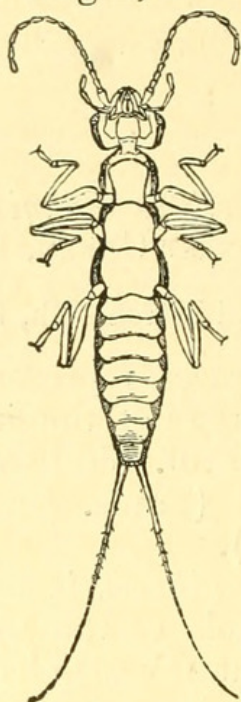


fig. 4.

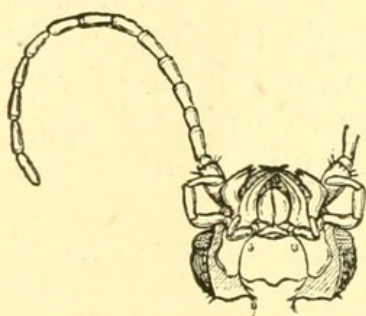


fig. 2.

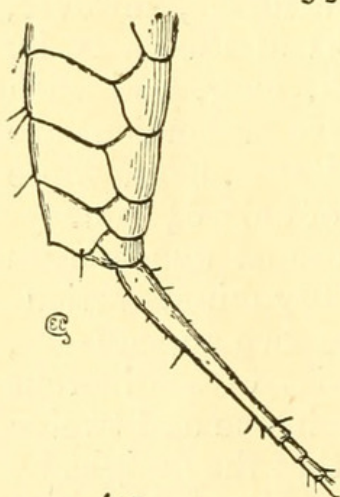


fig. 3.

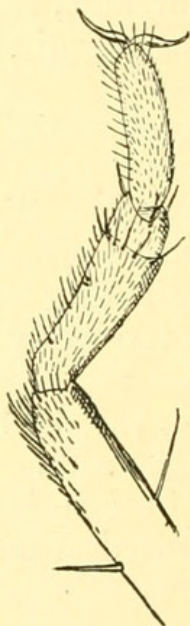


fig. 5.

- Fig. 1.—Outline of insect, dorsal view.
 „ 2.—Head, from below.
 „ 3.—Terminal segments of abdomen, from the [side.
 „ 4.—Outline of insect, ventral view.
 „ 5.—Tarsus and part of tibia of anterior leg.

thickness. The appendages are finely setose, and there are a few stout spines on the basal and following six or seven joints.

The antennæ have undergone very little change. They still contain fifteen joints; but the second is very small and sunk into the apex of the large basal piece, which bears several stout spines.

There is an important change in the structure of the legs, three joints being now apparent in the tarsi; the second joint, is, however, very small, and firmly fixed to the preceding one, the line of separation being rather inconspicuous. The femora are distinctly channelled for the reception of the tibiæ. There is no pad between the claws.

The mouth parts, as far as can be seen without dissection, are as described by Prof. Westwood; the

maxillæ are perhaps rather longer and more falcate.

The similarity of structure to that of the *Forficulidæ* is most marked in the specimen under examination. On each of two tergal plates, near the base of the abdomen, appear a pair of well-marked glandular folds, corresponding with the scent-glands found in a similar situation in many earwigs. On the ventral surface, the sternal plates of the thorax are very large and broad, each projecting backwards, and covering part of the following segment. The legs are widely separated, and the coxæ small and cylindrical. The tergal and sternal plates of the abdomen are fitted together in the imbricating fashion which is almost peculiar to the *Forficulidæ*. The extremity of the abdomen, between the cerci, is closed by a vertical plate divided transversely into two or more pieces.

The specimen from which the above notes were taken, is now deposited in the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road. Westwood's type of the insect is presumably in the Oxford Museum.



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