

ON A NEW SPECIES OF COCCID ON FERN-ROOTS.

BY W. M. MASKELL.

(Communicated by A. Sidney Olliff.)

(Plate VII. figs. 1-4.)

I received some months ago from Mr. A. Sidney Olliff six specimens of a coccid found at Kurrajong Heights in New South Wales by Messrs. J. J. Fletcher and C. T. Musson on roots of *Doodia aspera*. Various causes have prevented me from thoroughly examining these specimens until lately, but having now been able to do so, I find that they belong undoubtedly to the Lecanid group, and their subterranean habit and six-jointed antennæ place them in the genus *Lecanopsis*, Targioni-Tozzetti, of which two or three European species are known. The present insect differs from these in size and colour, as well as in its much more convex and rugose form; and I therefore propose to consider it as a new species.

Group LECANIDINÆ.

Subdivision LECANIDÆ.

Genus LECANOPSIS, Targioni-Tozzetti.

Insects subterranean, attached to roots of grass or other plants; adult females presenting the normal abdominal cleft and lobes, and with antennæ of six joints. Feet present. Mentum monomerous.

LECANOPSIS FILICUM, sp. nov.

Adult female dark red-brown; dorsum very convex, the height being nearly equal to the length; ventral surface flat or slightly concave, with small patches of white cotton between it and the

root; margin elliptical, slightly flattened. Abdomen exhibiting a shallow cleft with the usual two dorsal lobes; but the cleft is scarcely noticeable, being hidden by the dorsal convexity. Cephalic region comparatively smooth; abdominal region conspicuously segmented. The body at gestation becomes full of eggs and partially developed larvæ. Antennæ short, rather thick, conical, with six short subequal joints, of which the last bears a few hairs. Feet also short, partly atrophied, the joints somewhat swollen; claw very small. Rostrum moderate; mentum monomeric.

Early stages and male not observed.

Hab.—Kurrajong Heights, New South Wales; under ground, on rhizome and roots of *Doodia aspera*.

The six-jointed antennæ may be considered as a sufficient character for the separation of *Lecanopsis* from *Lecanium*; the subterranean habitat would not by itself suffice.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

Lecanopsis filicum.

Fig. 1.—Root of *Doodia*, with insects.

Fig. 2.—The same, enlarged.

Fig. 3.—Antenna of female.

Fig. 4.—Foot of female.



Maskell, William Miles. 1894. "On a new species of coccid on fern-roots."
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