

Rejoinder to Professor Brauer's: Thatsächliche Berichtigung etc. in the Berl. Entom. Zeitschrift

XXXVII, p. 487—489; 1892,

by *C. R. Osten Sacken*.

When I received Professor Brauer's, above-quoted paper, I made up my mind not to reply to it, for the same reason which, ten years ago induced me to ignore the eleven pages of his „Offenes Schreiben“ etc. (1883) directed against me. Any competent dipterologist who will take the trouble to compare my criticisms with Brauer's defense, will understand the motive of my silence.

My purpose at present is merely to publish, with Prof. Miall's permission, a communication contained in one of his letters to me, which, I think, is conclusive in regard to the principal point in discussion: the position of the so-called brain of the larva of *Chironomus*.

I begin with reproducing the two principal passages concerning the brain-question in Brauer's: Thatsächliche etc.

On my very pertinent question (in the Berl. Ent. Z. 1892, p. 463): what particular larvae of his pretended group *Eucephala* he had examined to ascertain the position of their brain, he answered in a tone of indignation (l. c.):

„Die Frage Osten Sacken's ob ich denn alle Eucephalen-Larven „untersucht habe, weise ich zurück, denn sie enthält eine Verdächtigung, die mir unwürdig ist zu beantworten. Ich demonstriere diese „Punkte alle Jahre meinen Hörern, und habe mich während meiner mehr „als vierzigjährigen Thätigkeit nicht mit Schwindeleien abgegeben.“

Translation: The question of O. S., whether I have examined all the heads of *Eucephalons* larvae, I resent, because it involves a suspicion which I deem below my dignity to answer. For years I demonstrate these points to my pupils, and for more than forty years of my career I have not been engaged in „Schwindeleien“. (I prefer not to translate this expression.) — Immediately before this passage, Prof. Brauer had said:

„Wenn Miall im Kopfe der *Chironomus*-Larve kein Gehirn „gefunden hat, so bedarf das noch sehr der Bestätigung. Ich halte

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„mich an Weismann's und meine Untersuchungen.“ Translation: „The fact that Miall has not found any brain in the larva-head of *Chironomus*, still requires confirmation. I rely on Weismann's researches as well as on my own.“ Here Brauer distinctly asserts that he has examined the larva of at least one genus that of *Chironomus*, and that his result agrees with Weismann's.

The passage in Professor Miall's letter to me speaks for itself:

„Brauer cannot claim Weismann as supporter of his statement about the brain of *Chironomus*. Weismann says (about the growth of the larva): ‚Das letzte Ganglion rückt um ein ganzes Segment weiter nach vorn, die Schlund-Ganglien aber treten aus dem Kopf nach rückwärts und liegen jetzt zur Hälfte im ersten Leibessegment, um einige Tage später vollständig in dasselbe hinüberzutreten‘ (Entwickl. d. Dipteren, p. 43, 1864). It was on account of this clear statement that I treated the matter so briefly in our paper about *Chironomus*. The position of the brain in a *Chironomus* can be determined without dissection. Living larvae can always be procured. If one is placed alive under a low power of the microscope it is easy to see who is right in the question under dispute.“ — Sapiienti sat!

Heidelberg, Dec. 11, 1893.

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