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A Note on the Genus Aulacephala Macquart (Diptera).

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Dr. Bau's recent article on the genus *Aulacephala* (Konowia, VII, 1928, pp. 298—300) being provided with a bibliography, might easily convey the impression of being up-to-date. As this is unfortunately not the case, the following remarks might not be amiss.

1. The male of *Aulacephala badia* was not thus far undescribed as Dr. Bau believes. Bezzi (Boll. Lab. Zool. Gen. Agrar. Portici, VI, 1911, p. 64) has given a brief description of a male from Pretoria. Some of the characters of this sex have also been pointed out by C. H. T. Townsend (Insecutor Inscitiae Menstr., VI, 1918, p. 165) and by me (Rev. Zool. Afric., X, 1922, p. 303).

2. It is surprizing that Dr. Bau does not mention the most striking difference between the two sexes in *A. badia, viz.*, in the shape of the head. In the female, the eyes are broadly separated by the frons and have small facets all of equal size. In the male, the eyes are holoptic, barely separated by the frons which is linear below the ocellar triangle and widens slightly above the insertions of the antennae; the facets are much larger than in the female and they gradually decrease in size from the upper to the lower area of the eye. As this peculiarity of the male could hardly escape being noticed, I suspect that Dr. Bau's supposed male from Cameroon was really a female. The short anal appendages mentioned by Dr. Bau are also to be seen in the female of *A. hervei* and are the valves of the ovipositor. There is even a possibility that the specimen from Cameroon is a different species from the South African *A. badia*.

3. After comparing several specimens of *A. badia*, from South Africa, with the two female types of *A. maculithorax* Macquart, at the Paris Museum, I reached the conclusion that these two supposed species were synonyms. Macquart's specimens were said to have come from Madagascar, but no specimen of *Aulacephala* has been taken in that island since. It is probable that Macquart's specimens were really obtained in South Africa.

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4. Since *A. badia* Gerstaecker (1863) is not specifically distinct from *A. maculithorax* Macquart (1851), Townsend's genus *Aulacocephalopsis* (1918), based upon *A. badia,* is a synonym of *Aulacephala* Macquart. I can see no compelling reason why the original spelling should be emended to *Aulacocephala.*

5. I have described a second species of *Aulacephala, A. hervei* J. Bequaert (Rev. Zool. Afric., X, 1922, p. 305, ♀), from Japan and China. It is, however, more widely distributed in the Orient, since *Aulacocephala karnyi* Malloch (Treubia, VI, 1925, p. 147, ♂) of Sumatra, is undoubtedly the same insect.

6. That *Aulacocephala braueri* Kertész is not a member of the genus *Aulacephala* was first recognized by Townsend, who made it the type of his genus *Therobiopsis* (Insecutor Inscitiae Menstr., VI, 1918, p. 166). Bezzi, however, synonymized Townsend's genus with *Therobia* Brauer (Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat., Milano, LXV, 1, 1926, p. 1).

A review of the bibliography of *Aulacephala* up to 1922 and a brief discussion of the affinities of the genus may be found in a paper I published in 1922.[1])

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[1]) Bequaert, J. 1922. Sur le genre *Aulacephala* Macquart, avec la description d'une nouvelle espèce de l'Extrême-Orient (Rev. Zool. Afric., X, 3, pp. 301—308).

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