

A relie of the tertiary period in Europe,

Elephantomyia, a genus of Tipulidae,

by

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In September 1881 I had the pleasure to examine a number of unnamed Tipulidae collected by my friend Mr. A. Hiendlmayr, principally in the immediate vicinity of Munich, Bavaria. Among them I found a specimen, the sight of which caused me an unexpected delight and excitement. It was an *Elephantomyia* (Section *Limnobina anomala*), a very singular genus, that I had discovered in North America, distinguished by a very long, filiform proboscis, with minute palpi, inserted at the extreme end. The only specimen, a female, bore a label with a number, and upon referring to his journal, Mr. Hiendlmayr told me that it had escaped from a bundle of moss, brought home from an excursion near the city.

The specimen agrees with the description of the North-American *E. Westwoodi* in the Monogr. N. Am. Dipt. IV, p. 109, Tab. I, f. 5. The slight discrepancies are easily explained by the state of immaturity of the specimen; the brown stripe on the front part of the thorax is, for this reason obsolete and the stigma less brownish. The „more or less brown stripe along the middle of the back“, refers undoubtedly to the alimentary canal, much more apparent in living than in dried specimens, and at the time I was in the habit of drawing my descriptions from fresh specimens. The venation is exactly the same as the figure (reproduced from a magnified photograph) represents it.

Thus the specific identity must be assumed until it is disproved by further evidence, and thus, to my regret, I must desist for the time being from my intention to dedicate the species to its discoverer.

The occurrence of the same species of *Elephantomyia* on both continents should have nothing to astonish us; we have a similar instance in the genus *Antocha*, belonging to the same section of *Limnobia anomala*, and the european representative of which is undistinguishable from the North-American. I will observe by the way that *monotypical* or *oligotypical* genera of Tipulidae are quite often represented by the identical or closely parallel species in distant parts of the world; for instance *Trimicra*, *Trochobola*, *Symplecta*, *Pedicia*, *Cylindrotoma*, *Dicranoptycha* etc.

Another point of interest, connected with the discovery of *Elephantomyia* in Europe is this. There is a number of very peculiar genera of Tipulidae which occur as fossils in the prussian amber and are, at the same time, found living in the United States, thus confirming the well-known relationship between the tertiary fauna and flora with that of North-America. *Elephantomyia* is one of these genera. It seems to have been more common during the amber-period than it is now, because Dr. Loew distinguished three species in the amber, while only one N. Am. species is known, and that seems to be wide-spread, but not common. *Elephantomyia* has not been discovered in South-America yet. But I have seen among Wahlbergs collections from South-Africa, in the Museum of Stockholm, a species which is a true *Elephantomyia*. This sporadic distribution will explain the interest that the discovery of this genus in Europe excited in me. As this relie of the tertiary fauna in Europe escaped detection so long, it must be very rare, or very local, and it will be interesting to watch, where it will turn up next.

The two other remarkable forms of the amber-fauna, which still exist in North-America are *Idioplasta* (*Protoplasta olim*) and the *Eriocerea* with immensely long antennae in the male sex. Both have a singularly sporadic distribution.

Idioplasta, besides the amber and North-America, occurs in California, and its close relative *Tanyderus* in Chili, New Zealand and Amboina; from each locality, only one species is known.

The *Eriocerae* with long antennae, besides the amber and North-America (four species in the United States), have only been found in the Malay Archipelago (three species).

Mr. Hiendlmayr's discovery proves once more, how little we know yet about the european Diptera, and especially about the Tipnlidae!

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