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Some Asilidae from Iran

(Ergebnisse der Entomologischen Reisen Willi Richter, Stuttgart, im Iran 1954 und 1956 – Nr. 16)

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At the invitation of Professor Dr. LINDNER I have had the privilege of studying the Asilidae collected in Iran in 1954 and again in 1956 by Herren RICHTER and SCHÄUFFELE. This beautifully preserved material contains 33 species, belonging to 25 genera. The large number of different genera represented is an indication that the collectors have taken a representative sample of the Asilidae of the localities that they visited.

The collection includes a number of genera and species that are structurally interesting, and which are poorly represented in museum collections. There are seven new species, and one new genus. The material as a whole is typical of dry, dusty or sandy habitats, and shows an admixture of Palaearctic elements with a few from the Ethiopian Region.

The holotypes of the new species are deposited in the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde in Stuttgart.

Laphystiini

Laphystia erberi Schiner, 1865, Verh. zool. bot. Ges. Wien 15, p. 996. — Khuzistan: Shadegan, 1.–10. IV. 1956, 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; 18 km nordöstlich Shadegan, Jarrahi-Ufergebiet, 28. III.–6. IV. 1956, 6 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀; Belutschistan: Iranshar, Bampurufur, 5. III. 1954, 1 ♀.

Laphystia dimidiata n. sp.

This is one of the species, like *erberi*, in which the marginal hairs of the scutellum are stiff and bristle-like. It differs from all the other Palaearctic *Laphystia* known to me in the colour-pattern of the legs: the fore and middle femora black in the basal half, the rest of the legs bright reddish. The abdomen is distinctive, with brownish grey tomentum leaving bare a median row of diamond-shaped spots.

Head: Face prominent, covered with white tomentum and dense, silky white hairs; tomentum and hairs of frons and occiput more yellowish. Antennae black, first segment with white hairs ventrally.

Thorax: Black in ground colour, mesonotum almost entirely covered with golden brown tomentum, leaving bare a pair of short black stripes, each ending in a black spot on transverse suture. Hairs and bristles yellowish: no properly developed dorsocentrals, though hairs in posterior part of mesonotum are more bristly than the rest. Scutellum with long, soft yellowish hairs on disc, and an irregular row of long, bristly yellowish ones on margin. Pleura with white tomentum and white, or yellowish hairs.

Abdomen: Black in ground colour, but almost entirely covered with grey-brown tomentum. On each segment is a large, diamond-shaped spot that is bare and shining

black, the series forming a median row of spots. Hairs and lateral bristles yellowish. Venter similar, but without bare spots. Genitalia large, red dorsally, black ventrally, similar in shape to those of *erberi*.

Legs: Basal two-thirds of fore femora, and basal one-third of middle femora, black. Otherwise legs entirely bright reddish, with only extreme tips of tarsi a little dusky. Bristles pale yellowish and hairs white.

Wings: Clear, faintly greyish. Halteres reddish with yellow knob.

Length: Body 10 mm; wing 9 mm.

Khuzistan: Shadegan, 1.–10. IV. 1956, holotype ♂, 1 ♀; 18 km nordöstlich Shadegan, Jarrahi-Ufergebiet, 28. III.–6. IV. 1956, 1 ♂, 5 ♀♀.

Glyphotriclis impulvinatus n. sp.

Sharply distinguished from *Gl. ornatus* in both sexes by having the pulvilli reduced to tiny vestiges, and the abdomen entirely covered with dense tomentum. The wing is very similar to that of *ornatus*, with the costal vein ceasing before reaching the tip of the wing. The absence of pulvilli might be though to justify the erection of a new genus, but I am reluctant to do this on the basis of a single structural deviation.

Head: Frons distinctly broader than face, more so than in *ornatus*. Tomentum and hairs of face, frons and occiput white. Mystax more or less confined to lower half of face, which is only a little swollen. Antennae yellow-brown, a little darker towards tip; first two segments with white hairs. Palpi yellow; proboscis black.

Thorax: Black in ground colour, but entirely covered with dense white tomentum. Mesonotum without pattern, and clothed with rather long, whitish hairs. A number of yellowish bristles above wing-base, but none on scutellum. Pleura similar to mesonotum, but without clothing-hairs on sternopleuron.

Abdomen: Black or dark red in ground colour, covered with tomentum, which changes colour from brownish to greyish, according to the direction of the light; from most directions there is an appearance of lighter and darker transverse bands, and of a median division down the middle. All segments laterally with 2 to 4 white discal bristles.

Legs: None of femora noticeably swollen, and no ventral spines or bristles. Legs yellowish brown, femora and tibiae darker dorsally; white clothing hairs, and white bristles. Claws black, fairly long, but rather straight; pulvilli reduced to mere vestiges.

Wings: Hyaline, with yellow veins. Costal vein stops soon after tip of R_4 , and hind margin is membranous. Marginal cell narrowly open, or closed on wing-margin; first and fourth posterior cells closed, each with a long stalk.

Length: ♂ body 8 to 9 mm; wing 8 mm. ♀ rather bigger (12 mm), and hairs generally more yellowish.

Belutschistan: Iranshar, Dünen nordwestlich Rig Ispakeh, 2. IV. 1954, holotype ♂, 1 ♂, 11 ♀♀; Rand Rig Ispakeh, 19. III. 1954, 2 ♀♀; nordwestlich Trockental, 1 ♀.

Psilocurus translatus n. sp. (Fig. 1)

Psilocurus is a North American genus, which has not, I believe, been recorded from the Palaearctic Region before. It is distinguished from *Laphystia* by the fact that the facial swelling and mystax are confined to the lower half of the face; the hind femora are moderately swollen, more than in *Laphystia* but less than in *Trichardis*, and are unarmed below; and the scutellum has no hairs, but one or more pairs of strong bristles. The vein that closes the fourth posterior cell is straight, and parallel with the outer margin of the discal cell; in the American species the two are almost in line, but less so in the European species.

P. translatus is about 9 to 10 mm long, entirely metallic blue-black, including the legs. It differs from the American *P. caudatus* Williston in lacking the patches of white tomentum on the abdomen, and the close-lying yellow hairs which obscure the whole body in *caudatus*.

Head: Covered with white tomentum, leaving a bare shining black stripe vertically above antennae. Hairs and bristles of head mostly white, but with strong black occipital bristles, and some black hairs on frons and in upper part of mystax. Face prominent



Fig. 1. *Psilocurus translatus* n. sp., ♂.

in lower half only, as shown in fig. 1. Antennae black: first segment with a small ventral tubercle, bearing bristles as it does in *Laphystia*; third segment spindle-shaped, with a cup-like style bearing a short bristle. Palpi cylindrical, with slender tip; palpi and proboscis black.

Thorax: Dorsally shining blue-black, only sides of pronotum with white tomentum. Mesonotum covered with tiny pits bearing recumbent hairs which are mostly black, but are white anteriorly. Three strong black lateral bristles. Scutellum similar, with four strong, black marginal bristles in two separated pairs. Pleura mostly covered with white tomentum, but leaving bare two shining black patches, one vertically between fore and middle coxae, and a smaller one between middle and hind coxae.

Abdomen: Shining metallic steel-blue, without tomentum, except for two very small white patches at extreme sides of first three segments (i. e. first three visible dorsally; really 2 to 4). These segments have two or more strong discal bristles at each side. Dorsum otherwise densely covered with short, bristly black hairs. Hypopygium globular and very big, about as big as head (fig. 1).

Legs: Entirely blue-black, with only the faintest trace of reddish colour at bases and tips of femora. Fore and middle tibiae with white hairs on dorsal surface; otherwise short clothing hairs are black, but strong bristles are mostly yellow, with some black ones.

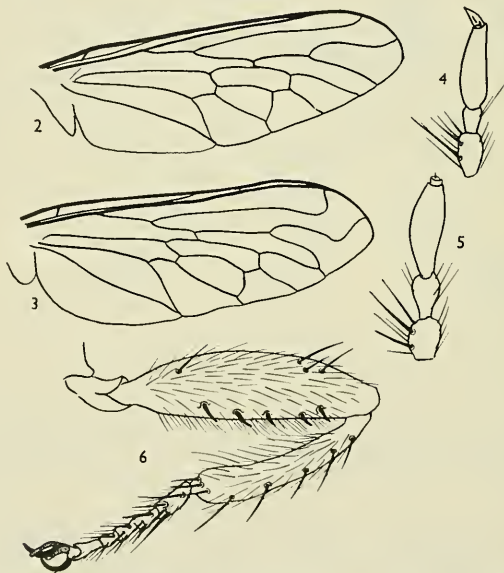
Wings: Venation as shown in fig. 1. Note that veins forming outer margins of discal and fourth posterior cells are almost straight and parallel, though not in line with each other. Claws and pulvilli well developed. Halteres reddish yellow.

Length: Body 10 mm; wing 6 mm. Wings disproportionately short.

Khuzistan: 18 km nordöstlich Shadegan, Jarrahi-Ufergebiet, 28. III.-6. IV. 1956, holotype ♂ and 2 other ♂♂.

Trichardopsis gen. nov.

The present collection contains a single female of the Laphystiini that I am not able to refer to any existing genus. It resembles *Trichardis* in having the hind femora swollen (though only moderately), with a row of ventral spines, and the hind tibiae bowed. The antennal style, with its dorsal pit and spine, is more like that of *Hoplistomerus* than *Trichardis*. From both these genera *Trichardopsis* is immediately distinguished by the venation (figs. 2—6). From *Gerrolasius*, which has similar venation, *Trichardopsis* is distinguished by the presence of ventral spines on the hind femora, and the absence of scutellar bristles.



Figs. 2—6. Comparative structure of *Trichardis* and *Trichardopsis*; 2: wing of *Trichardopsis*; 3: wing of *Trichardis*; 4: antenna of *Trichardopsis*; 5: antenna of *Trichardis*; 6: left hind leg of *Trichardopsis*.

Head: Broader than high, with face two-thirds as broad as one eye, and not at all prominent in profile. Mystax reduced to one or two bristles and a few silky hairs close to mouthmargin, with only sparse hairs above. Antennae as in fig. 4, about as long as height of head, with a pointed style which bears a dorsal pit and bristle. Palpi small, cylindrical; proboscis short. Occiput with fine hairs only.

Thorax and Abdomen without special features. Bristles are pale and very weak, but lateral patches on mesonotum and discal bristles at sides of abdomen can be detected; there are no scutellar bristles. Both thorax and abdomen clothed with rather long, fine hairs.

Legs: All femora fairly stout; hind femora moderately swollen (fig. 6), with an antero-ventral row of stout spines; hind tibiae bowed, and also moderately swollen, with an antero-dorsal row of longer spines. All tarsi normal, though first segment is quite short on all legs. Claws well-developed; pulvilli present, but rather short and narrow.

Wings: Only fourth posterior and anal cells closed; marginal and first posterior cells open. Figs. 2, 3 show the difference in venation between *Trichardopsis* and *Trichardis*; in the latter the first posterior cell is closed and stalked, and veins $R_2 +_3$ and R_4 are strongly sinuate.

Type species: *Trichardopsis richteri* n. sp.

Trichardopsis richteri n. sp.

A fairly small, dark species, with yellow legs, and hyaline, slightly iridescent wings. Owing to grease on the unique specimen it is not possible to say what is the pattern of the thorax or abdomen.

Head: Tomentum and hairs of face, frons and occiput entirely white. Mystax consisting of a few weak bristles on mouthmargin, and a covering of short, weak hairs that extends up to bases of antennae. First two antennal segments yellow-brown, with white hairs; rest darker brown. Palpi small, yellow, with white hairs. Proboscis black.

Thorax: Black in ground colour. Apparently with grey or white tomentum, which may have two denser longitudinal stripes, which are obscured by grease in the only specimen available. In addition mesonotum and scutellum are entirely clothed with fairly long, silky white hairs; very weak, colourless postsutural and supra-alar bristles can be detected, but there are no scutellars. Pleura similar, also with white hairs, but with a long bare patch on lower mesopleuron and sternopleuron.

Abdomen: Ground colour mostly black: last (sixth) visible tergite extensively yellow posteriorly, and base of abdomen a little yellowish at sides. Apparently with white tomentum on anterior half of each segment, and more or less bare hind margins. Clothing hairs white and rather long, as on thorax. Genitalia (♀) with a pair of lamellae, but without spines.

Legs: Fore and middle coxae mainly black in ground colour; hind coxae mainly yellow, but all covered with white tomentum. Legs otherwise entirely yellow, with only dorsal surfaces of tarsi a little darker. Bristles yellowish; hairs white. Claws with a reddish yellow base.

Wings: Hyaline, and faintly iridescent. Veins uncoloured, as well as membrane, so that wing is exceptionally transparent. No stigma. Halteres with whitish knob.

Length: Body 8 mm; wing 6 mm.

SO-Iran: (Djiroft), Anbar-Abad, 1.-18. V. 1956, ♀ holotype.

Laphriini

Dasythrix ramica Loew, 1871, Beschr. europ. Dipt. II, p. 106. — Belutschistan: Iranshar, 800 m, Bampurufur, 10. V. 1954, 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀.

Atomosiini

Loewinella virescens Loew, 1871, Beschr. europ. Dipt. II, p. 104. — Khuzistan: 18 km nordöstlich Shadegan, Jarrahi-Ufergebiet, 28. III.-6. IV. 1956, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Stichopogonini

Stichopogon albellus Loew, 1856, Neue Beitr. IV, p. 38. — Belutschistan: Südöstlich Iranshar, Bampurufur, 10.–14. V. 1954, 10.–21. VII. 1954, 4 ♀♀.

Stichopogon chrysostoma Schiner, 1867, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien 17, p. 367. — Belutschistan: Sangun, 1650 m, östlich Kuh i Taftan, 4.–18. VI. 1954, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀; Makran: Am Kahuran bei Putab, 25. III. 1954, 1 ♂.

Stichopogon schineri Koch, 1872, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien 22, p. 79. — Belutschistan: Südöstlich Iranshar, Hamant Kuh, 30. IV. 1954, 1 ♀.

Rhadinus megalonyx Loew, 1856, Neue Beitr. IV, p. 39. — Khuzistan: 18 km nordöstlich Shadegan, Jarrahi-Ufergebiet, 28. III.–6. IV. 1956, 7 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀.

Psilinus cinerascens Wulp, 1899, Trans. ent. Soc. Lond. 1899 (2), p. 86.

The genus *Psilinus* was unknown to ENGEL, who could not include it in his key in „Die Fliegen...“ (1928, p. 266). It would run down to couplet 4: „Kopf in der Vorderansicht breiter als hoch...“, but would be separated from all the others in this section by having the face less than half as broad as an eye. As WULP said, it is related to *Rhadinus*, from which it differs in having the mystax confined to the lower third of the face, and composed of soft hairs only.

There are two discrepancies between the present specimen and WULP's description. In both generic and specific descriptions he says that the mesonotum and scutellum are without bristles: the present specimen has a complete row of dorso-centrals, 3 notopleurals, 2 supra-alars, and 1 postalar, as well as a number of finer bristles posteriorly, while the scutellum has numerous hairs and bristles on the margin. These are all fine and pale, and it is possible that in WULP's type specimen the bristles had all been rubbed away. The mesonotum of the present specimen is covered with white tomentum, except for two very short, diverging stripes, a posthumeral spot and two postsutural ones, one on each side: the spots are shining black.

The second discrepancy is that the pulvilli are not entirely absent, though they are reduced to pale yellowish vestiges that are difficult to see.

In all other respects this specimen agrees exactly with WULP's description. If longer series had been available it is possible that the presence or absence of thoracic bristles and of pulvilli might have enabled us to distinguish two species of *Psilinus*, but for the moment I think there is insufficient evidence to justify the erection of a new species.

Makran: Am Kahuran bei Putab, 25. III. 1954, 1 ♂.

Saropogonini

Saropogon alternans Loew, 1873, Besch. europ. Dipt. III, p. 127. — Belutschistan: Iranshar, 800 m, südöstlich Bampurufur, 7.–10. IV. 1954, 3 ♀♀.

Saropogon jugulum Loew, 1847, Linn. Ent. II, p. 441. — Khuzistan: 18 km nordöstlich Shadegan, Jarrahi-Ufergebiet, 28. III.–6. IV. 1956, 2 ♂♂; SO-Iran: (Djiruft) Anbar-Abad, 1.–18. V. 1956, 1 ♂.

Saropogon verticalis n. sp.

A species that shows strong sexual dimorphism, the legs and abdomen of the male being more extensively black than those of the female. It is allied to *vestitus* Loew and *pulverulentus* Wulp, but is distinguished by having the mesonotum and scutellum entirely black in ground colour, and heavily tomented, and the legs differently coloured.

♂. Head: Black in ground colour, with white or yellow tomentum. Vertex with a conspicuous bare shining patch extending transversely from eye to eye. Ocellar bristles black, but all others are white or yellowish. Mystax confined to mouthmargin, and consisting of white bristles only. Antennae slender, third segment about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as first two segments together; mainly yellow-brown, but darker dorsally and at tip; some white bristles ventrally on first segment, others black. Palpi black, with white hairs on first segment and black or brown ones on second. Proboscis black.

Thorax: Ground colour entirely black, except for extreme tip of scutellum, which is a little reddish. Mesonotum and scutellum entirely covered with white tomentum, which is thinner in some areas, so that it shows traces of a divided grey median stripe, and a pair of lateral stripes. Mesonotum (but not scutellum) covered with short black bristles, and with longer black bristles as follows: 3 dorso-centrals; 2 notopleurals; 2 supra-alar; 2 postalar; 2 strong scutellars. Pleura with a bare patch on lower mesopleuron and one on metapleuron, so that tomentum shows the hook-like band that is usual in this genus.

Abdomen: Dorsum black, with conspicuous, but ill-defined red posterior bands on 2 to 4 segments, which become whitish on hind margins laterally. Ground colour shining through thin tomentum. Clothing hairs short and bristly, black; first segment only with a clump of strong white bristles. Venter similar. Hypopygium with the larger forceps shining black; aedeagus and claspers shining red.

Legs: Coxae like pleura. Trochanters, femora (except extreme tip) and tarsi all black. Fore and middle tibiae pale yellowish, black on posterior face and at tip; hind tibiae pale only at extreme base. Bristles black.

Wings: Clear, hyaline; no trace of brown colour, even along veins. Halteres yellow-brown, with yellow knob.

Length: Body 15 mm; wing 12 mm.

♀. Differs from male only in having more red colour on abdomen and legs. All abdominal segments have a broad red, or reddish yellow, hind margin, which is even more conspicuous on posterior segments than on anterior ones. Legs predominantly yellow or red-brown. Femora with a dorsal black-brown streak; tibiae yellowish; tarsi and tips of tibiae red-brown.

Belutschistan: Iranshar, 800 m, Hamant Kuh, 23.-30. IV. 1954, ♂ holotype, 1 ♀.

Galactopogon hispidus Engel, 1928, in LINDNER, Flieg. pal. Reg. 24, p. 273.

— Belutschistan: Südöstlich Iranshar, Bampurufur, 11.-18. III. 1954, 6 ♀♀;

Khuzistan: 18 km nordöstlich Shadegan, Jarrahi-Ufergebiet, 28. III. 1956;

Haft-Tepe, südöstlich Shush (Susa), 22. III. 1956, 2 ♂♂, 19 ♀♀.

Stenopogon superbus Portschinsky, 1873, Horae Soc. ent. Ross 9 (1872), p. 292. — Belutschistan: Iranshar, 19. IV.-27. V. 1954; Kuh i Taftan, Ostseite 2800 m, 10.-12. VI. 1954, 5 ♀♀.

Holopogon imbecillus Loew, 1870, Schrift. Ges. Freund. Nat. Moskau 1870, p. 55. — Iran: Ob Ali bei Teheran (feuchtes Gebirgstal), 2000 m, 28. VII. 1950, 1 ♀.

Leptogasterini

Leptogaster gracilis Loew, 1847, Linn. Ent. 2, p. 399. — Belutschistan: Iranshar, Dünen, nordwestlich Rig Ispakeh, 2. IV. 1954, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1?

1 ♂ from Northwest-Iranshar, Trockental, 6. III. 1954 agrees with the others in general coloration, and in the shape of the genitalia, but has the hairs of the mystax few and fine, instead of dense and scale-like.

Asilini

Satanas gigas Eversmann, 1854, Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moskau 27, p. 200. — Belutschistan: Bampurufur, 10.–28. V. 1954, 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀; SO-Iran: Djiroft, Anbar-Abad, 1.–18. V. 1956, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀.

Promachus griseiventris Becker, 1912, Ann. Mus. zool. Petersburg 17, p. 529. — Belutschistan: Sarawan (Shastun), 1200 m, 19. VI.–8. VII. 1954, 1 ♀.

Philodicus spectabilis Loew, 1870, Schrift. Ges. Freund. Nat. Moskau 1870, p. 55. — Belutschistan: Iranshar, 800 m, südwestliches Bampurufur, 22. V. 1954, 6 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀; Makran: Chabahar-Küste, 21.–24. III. 1954, 4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀.

Philodicus ponticus Bigot, 1880, Ann. Soc. ent. France (5) 10, p. 48. — Belutschistan: Sangun, 1650 m, östlich Kuh i Taftan, 4.–18. VI. 1954, 4 ♀♀; Iranshar, Bampurufur, 28. V. 1954, 1 ♀; Calle bei Kashan, VI. 1955, 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀.

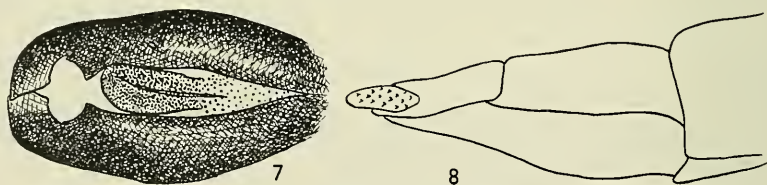
Apoclea algira Linnaeus, 1767, Syst. Nat. Ed. XII, p. 1006. — Belutschistan: Iranshar, Dünen, nordwestlich Rig Ispakeh, 2. IV. 1954, südöstlich Iranshar, Bampurufur, 11. III. 1954, 7 ♂♂, 10 ♀♀.

Apoclea helvipes Loew, 1873, Beschr. Europ. Dipt. 3, p. 141. — Belutschistan: Bampurufur, 7.–10. V. 1954, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀; SO-Iran: Djiroft, Anbar-Abad, 1.–18. V. 1956.

Astochia metatarsata Becker, 1913, Ann. Mus. zool. Akad. Petersburg 17, p. 539. — Belutschistan: Iranshar, 800 m, Bampurufur, 14. V. 1954, 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; Sangun, 1650 m, östlich Kuh i Taftan, 4.–18. VI. 1954, 1 ♀.

Dysmachus calceatus n. sp.

A small species, closely related to *setiger* Loew and *stenogastrus* Loew, but distinguished from either by the shape of the genitalia in both sexes (figs. 7, 8; cf. ENGEL, 1928, figs. 85, 86).



Figs. 7, 8. *Dysmachus calceatus* n. sp., genitalia; 7: ♂; 8: ♀.

Head: Covered with yellow-grey tomentum. Face with lower half swollen; mystax with black bristles dorsally, white ones ventrally. A few black hairs on frons; hairs and bristles of ocellar tubercle and occiput white. Antennae black with some black and some white hairs. Palpi and proboscis black with white hairs.

Thorax: Mesonotum black in ground colour, covered with dense yellowish tomentum, and with a broad median stripe and interrupted lateral ones of yellow-brown. Yellow notopleural and supra-alar bristles, but other bristles of mesonotum black; dorsocentrals strong, with 3 presuturals; acrostichals rather long, but slender. Scutellum yellowish grey, with fine, erect white hairs, and with two marginal bristles, which may be either black or white. Pleura with yellowish grey tomentum and white or yellowish hairs, and bristles.

Abdomen: Black in ground colour, covered with grey tomentum that is paler on hind margins and laterally, and has a trace of an indistinct brown median stripe. Clothing hairs white, and strong white dorsal bristles on all segment. Genitalia as in figs. 7, 8.

Legs: Entirely black, except for knees, which are only narrowly reddish. All hairs, and almost all bristles, white.

Wings: Relatively short; most of membrane covered with microtrichiae, and anterior cross-vein with a faint black spot. No stigma. Halteres yellow.

Length: Body 11 mm; wing 7 mm.

Khuzistan: Haft Tepe, südöstlich Shush, 22.–24. III. 1956, ♂ holotype, 2 ♀♀.

Neolophonotus (Hippomachus) pegasus Loew, 1857, Dipt.-Fauna Südaf. 1, p. 165; ENGEL, 1927, Ann. Transv. Mus. 12, p. 149; EFFLATOUN, 1934, Mém. Soc. R. ent. Egypte 4, p. 83.

LOEW first described this species from Kaffraria, and it was later recorded by ENGEL from "West Africa", and by EFFLATOUN from Egypt (Gebel Elba). EFFLATOUN pointed out that his specimens had the legs entirely black, whereas those previously recorded had the tibiae partly reddish. The specimens in the present collection also have some reddish colour on the tibiae. It seems likely that all these records do, in fact, relate to one species, and that it belongs to the Ethiopian Region rather than the Palaearctic.

The female of the subgenus *Hippomachus* has not previously been described. It is exactly like the male, except that the wings are not dilated on the fore border. The ovipositor is laterally flattened, as in the other subgenera of *Neolophonotus*, but the lamellae are blunt, not acutely pointed like those of *Lophopeltis*.

Belutschistan: Iranshar, Rig Ispakeh, Dünen und Bampurufur, 13. III.–9. IV. 1954, 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀.

Neomochtherus perplexus Becker, 1923, Rev. Loewsch. Dipt. Asil. 74, p. 103.

This is a very variable species, of which two or three colour-forms exist (ENGEL, 1928). The present specimens agree best with *perplexus-hungaricus* Engel, but have the longer male hypopygium that he figures for typical *perplexus*. They may also be compared with *pallens* Wiedemann, which was unknown to ENGEL.

Khuzistan: 18 km nordöstlich Shadegan, Jarrahi-Ufergebiet, 28. III.–6. IV. 1956, 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀.

Neomochtherus atripes n. sp.

The entirely black antennae and legs separate this from any of the species listed by ENGEL, and from any African species known to me. In ENGEL's key it runs down to the neighbourhood of *tridentatus* Loew, but is distinguished by having the male hypopygium much simpler, as well as by the leg-colour.

Head: Tomentum of frons yellowish, that of face white. Lower two-thirds of face swollen, with an entirely white mystax; a few black hairs on ocellar tubercle, but otherwise hairs of head entirely white. Antennae, proboscis and palpi black, with black hairs, mixed with one or two white ones.

Thorax: Mesonotum black in ground colour, covered with grey-brown tomentum in which a darker median stripe and lateral spots are indistinctly visible. Bristles black, except on postalar calli; only postsutural dorsocentrals present. Entire mesonotum covered, with very short black bristles, except for area immediately before scutellum, which has fine white hairs. Scutellum with fine white hairs on disc and four marginal bristles, which may be either white or black (sometimes the two left ones may be black and the other two white, or vice versa). Pleura yellowish grey, hairs and bristles white or yellowish.

Abdomen: Black in ground colour, covered with dense tomentum: each segment has a large brown spot, and is grey laterally, and on hind margins. Clothing hairs, white, and white discal bristles laterally on each segment. Venter similar, but less brownish. Male genitalia black; forceps simple, rounded.

Legs: Entirely black, with white clothing hairs; bristles mostly, or entirely black.

Wings: Clear, faintly brownish along veins, but without any grey areas. Membrane somewhat ribbed. Halteres yellow-brown.

Length: Body 19 mm; wing 14 mm.

Belutschistan: Sangun, 1650 m östlich Kuh i Taftan, 4.–18. VI. 1954, Kuh i Taftan, Ostflanke, 2800 m, 10.–12. VI. 1954, ♂ holotype, 8 ♂♂, 11 ♀♀.

Antiphrisson adpressus Loew, 1849, Linn. Ent. 4, p. 125.

In this series of specimens the fore and middle femora are considerably darker than in specimens from Egypt, and have their posterior faces generally entirely dark, except for a red ring near the tip. Some specimens of intermediate pattern can be found, however, and so I do not consider that a distinct species should be proposed.

Khuzistan: 18 km nordöstlich Shadegan, Jarrahi-Ufergebiet, 28. III.–6. IV. 1956, 19 ♂♂, 23 ♀♀.

Polyphonus laevigatus Loew, 1848, Linn. Ent. 3, p. 407. — Khuzistan: Haft Tepe, südöstlich Shush, 22.–24. III. 1956, 30 km südöstlich Shush, Ufer am Diss, 23. III. 1956, 10 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀.

Ommatius tenellus Wulp, 1899, Trans. ent. Soc. Lond. 1899, p. 97. — Belutschistan: Südöstlich Iranshar, Bampurufur, 10.–14. V. 1954, 2 ♂♂, 13 ♀♀.

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