NOTES

A Note on the Genus Drosophilella Duda (Diptera; Drosophilidae)1

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THE GENERIC NAME Drosophilella was first published by Duda (1923:25) in the combina tion "Drosophilella seminigra n.sp." D. seminigra, then, is the type species by monotypy. However, he apparently intended to publish it as a new genus, with two new species, in another article, written earlier but published a year later (Duda, 1924a). The two species were D. seminigra and D. colocasiae, the former from Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen (now Madang), New Guinea, and the latter from Nongkod-Mt. Brome o jadjar, Java, collected from the plant Colocasia

antiquarum (Schott).

The types of D. seminigra (18, 29) were said to be in the Budapest Museum. Through the courtesy of Dr. G. Kruseman, Head of the Department of Entomology, Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, I have been able to borrow for study the two type specimens of D. colocasiae. One is a male, lacking one wing and the head; the other is an intact female and I have selected it as the lectotype and have labeled it accordingly.

Through an error, Duda (1924b:252) described a Drosophila [sic] colocasiae n. sp. In the description numerous comparisons are made with Drosophilella seminigra, including a remark on the bare arista which is the principal generic character, so that it seems clear that the name Drosophilella was intended. Perhaps this is why McAlpine (1968) in his key to the drosophilid genera with bare or pubescent aristae stated that D. seminigra was the only known species.

Duda's description of D. colocasiae was quite thorough, but a study of the two type specimens revealed two important characteristics which were not mentioned by Duda. The ocellar bristles arise outside the limits of the triangle produced by the ocelli, and these bristles are rather long, equal in length to the inner verticals. More important, the second tarsal segment of the front legs bears a cluster of four stout teeth on an elongated protuberance (Figs. 2 and 3). It should be pointed out that these teeth are small and not easily seen; the artist (Linda Wheeler) used 120× magnification to prepare this illustration.

Other characteristics which were not mentioned specifically by Duda are: two humeral bristles, the lower one half the length of the upper; two stout sternopleural bristles arising near the dorsal suture; tarsal joints of the front legs noticeably short and closely spaced, as in many species of Scaptomyza (Duda described them as "plump," that is, coarse or clumsylooking).

Duda (1924a) separated the two species largely on color and shape. Judging from the two descriptions and my own observations, the

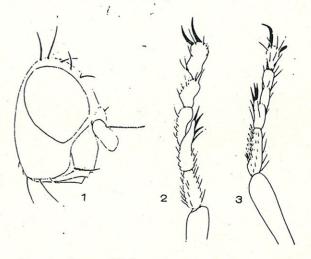


Fig. 1. Drosophilella colocasiae Duda, lectotype female, head in profile. × 75.

Figs. 2 and 3. Drosophilella colocasiae, lectotype female, front leg in two views, showing unusual spinose development on second segment. X 100.

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following revision of his couplet might prove more satisfactory:

LITERATURE CITED

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- 1924a. Beitrag zur Systematik der Drosophiliden unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der paläarktischen und orientalischen Arten (Dipteren), Archiv für Naturgeschichte, Abt. A, vol. 90, no. 3, pp. 172-234. — 1924b. Die Drosophiliden (Dipteren) des Deutschen Entomologischen Institutes d. Wilhelm-Gesellschaft (früheres Deutsches Entomologisches Museum) aus H. Sauter's Formosa-Ausbeute, nebst Beschreibung zehn neuer südostasiatischer Drosophiliden des Amsterdamer Museums und des... Wiener Staatsmuseums, Archiv für Naturgeschichte, Abt. A. vol. 90, no. 3, pp. 235-259; pls. I-VII.

MCALPINE, J. F. 1968. An annotated key to drosophilid genera with bare or micropubescent aristae and a revision of *Paracacoxenus* (Diptera: Drosophilidae). Canadian Entomologist, vol. 100, pp. 514–532.