

***Tripteroides* (*Rachisoura*) *tityae* (Diptera: Culicidae), a new species from Netherlands New Guinea**

by

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When in the Arfak Mountains (Vogelkop Peninsula, Netherlands New Guinea) in September 1959, Dr. D. METSELAAR collected material of a new species of *Tripteroides*, subgenus *Rachisoura*, which is described below.

***Tripteroides* (*Rachisoura*) *tityae* sp. nov.**

Type-specimens: Female holotype, tarsus of one hind leg missing; deposited in the British Museum.

One female paratype, one mid leg missing; deposited in the Museum for Natural History, Leiden, Holland. Except for the mentioned missing parts the type specimens are in good condition.

Type-locality: Wazirawa-river, Arfak Mountains, between 5550 and 5875 ft.

DESCRIPTION.

Female: Head covered with flat dull brown scales; a narrow border of pale yellow scales along eye margin, not broadening laterally into a patch; erect scales caudally, the median ones light coloured, the others dark. Palpi with dark scales, slender, slightly over 0.2 the length of proboscis, extending from the clypeus for about 4 times the length of the latter. Proboscis stout, with dark scales. Proboscis 1.1 the length of fore femur. Clypeus dark brown, without scales.

Mesonotum covered with narrow, curved, bronzy scales, anteriorly of moderate size, posteriorly rather large; frontal margin with white, slender, curved scales; 6 pairs of prescutellars; scutellum with brown, flat scales; integument of pleura dark brown merging into black caudally; pleural scales cream coloured with a pronounced golden sheen, scales on posterior part of pronotum creamy brown, dorsad changing to brown. One posterior pronotal bristle, 4—5 brown spiraculars, one golden upper sternopleural bristle. Postnotum dark brown with 5—8 tiny white scales in the medio-distal part.

Legs with dark scales, a stripe of golden scales on ventral side of femora, most conspicuous in the fore femora, almost absent in the hind femora; fore femora with yellow scales on dorsal surface, especially on basal half; all femora with apical kneespots of yellow scales, all legs with two claws; hind tibia 0.9 the length of mid tibia.

Wing-scales dark brown, broad on distal parts of veins 1, 2, 3 and 4; costal scales blackish; upper forkcell twice the length of its stem; forkcell bases level. Wing length 4.7—5.3 mm. Halteres with blackish knobs.

Tergites with dark scales, I with some pale yellowish scales medially, II—VII with apical bands of yellow scales, more or less divided into one median and two

lateral patches (fig. 1, a and b); sternites with mainly pale scales, V—VII with dark, concave, basal bands (fig. 1, b and c).

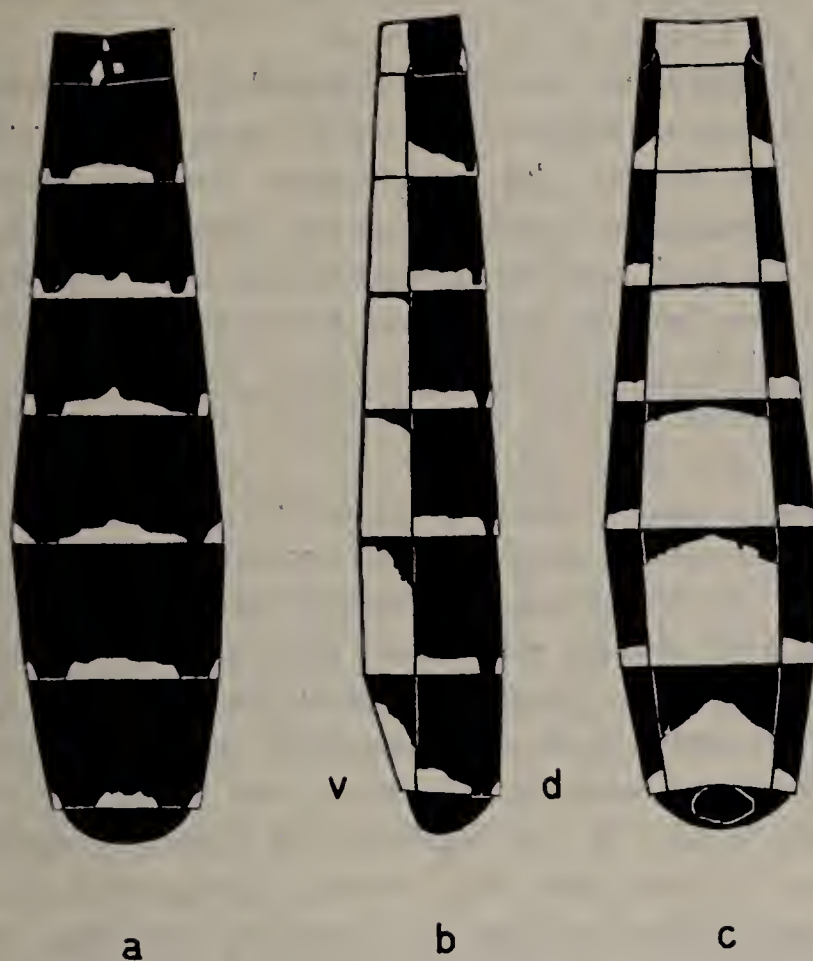


Figure 1. Abdomen of *Tripteroides* (R.) *tityae*. a. dorsal view, b. lateral view, ventral and dorsal side indicated with v and d respectively, c. ventral view.

Male and larva unknown.

Identification: This species keys out to near *Tripteroides* (R.) *van-leeuweni* (Edwards) in KNIGHT, BOHART & BOHART (1944), but appears closest to *Tripteroides* (R.) *flabelligera* Bonne-Wepster, the description of which was completed by VAN DEN ASSEM (1959). From the latter species it is easily distinguished by the scaling of the abdomen. There are also differences in numbers of prescutellars and scaling of head and posterior pronotum.

The new species is easily distinguished from the other members of *Rachisoura* by the apical yellow scaling on the tergites. This is a unique character in hitherto known species of the subgenus.

The species was collected whilst biting late in the afternoon in rainforest.

I take pleasure in naming this species after Mrs. F. M. J. METSELAAR-VAN SLUYS.

Acknowledgement. I am indebted to Dr. E. N. MARKS (Brisbane) for valuable criticism on the draft of the description of the new species.

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