

A description of male and larva of *Tripteroides* (*Mimeteomyia*) *microlepis* (Edwards), (Diptera, Culicidae)

by

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Tripteroides (*M.*) *microlepis* was described by EDWARDS (1927), from a single female specimen collected in the Nassau Mountains (Central New Guinea Highlands). LEE (1946) contributed to EDWARDS' description from material — all females, collected while biting in daytime — originating from the Cyclops Mountains (Hollandia district), collected in mountain forest in altitudes between 950 and 1500 metres. Males and larvae of this species remained unknown for the time being.

Larvae of this species were collected in August 1958 from pitchers of climbing *Nepenthes* in mossy forest near Enarotali (03.56 S, 136.21 E; Wissel-lakes district) and near Homejo (03.42 S, 136.41 E; Kemaboe valley), both localities in the Western Central Highlands, at about 2000 metres.

T. microlepis larvae, which were present abundantly, were found associated with those of *Tripteroides* (*Rachisoura*) *flabelligera* Bonne-Wepster and *Tripteroides* (*Rachisoura*) *cuttsi* spec. nov., both to be described in a separate paper dealing with the subgenus *Rachisoura* (Van den Assem, 1959).

Specimens to be described below were bred from larvae; in addition female specimens of *T. microlepis* were collected while biting in daytime. They were present in fair numbers and proved to be annoying biters in the forest.

The *microlepis* specimens from Enarotali and Homejo agree rather well with those from the Cyclops as described by LEE (1946, p. 270); they differ however from EDWARDS' original description (1927, p. 353) on some points. I am obliged to Mr. P. F. MATTINGLY (British Museum) who was so kind to compare specimens from Enarotali with the type of *microlepis*, lodged in the British Museum. He noted that the best differences seemed to be the absence, in the type, of a posterior pronotal bristle, the presence of five spiracular bristles and the much better developed posterolateral triangles on the tergites. Two specimens from

the Cyclops in the British Museum have a distinct posterior pronotal bristle in combination with five spiraculars however, which makes it unlikely that more than one species is involved in the specimens from Nassau Mountains (EDWARDS), Cyclops (LEE) and Enarotali-Homejo. As one should of course allow for a much greater variability within the species than can be told of from a single female specimen (and preferably not describe a species from a single specimen at all), it was felt the best way to consider the material to be dealt with in this paper as belonging to the species *microlepis*.

Female. Specimens before me agree fairly well with the description by LEE. The palpi are very short, not exceeding the clypeus by one time the length of the



Fig. 1. Lobe of ninth tergite of male terminalia.

latter. The thoracic integument is dark; the mesonotal scaling dark brown, the individual scales are small. Pleura are largely covered with white scales. Dorso-central bristles are present. In all specimens are a well developed posterior pronotal bristle, 2—4 dark spiracular bristles and 2 pairs of prescutellar bristles. On the abdomen is a very indefinite pattern of light scales laterally on the tergites.

M a l e. Similar to the female in most respects. Palpi are slender, dark brown scaled, 0.8 the length of the proboscis. Lobes of the ninth tergites are long and narrow, well separated, with 4—6 setae on the distal margin as illustrated in fig. 1.

L a r v a. Head with clypeal spines fairly long and slender. Antennal shaft hair single. Head hair A 4-branched, B 3-branched, behind the level of A, C 4-branched, close to the anterior border of head capsule, d single. No modified hairs present on thorax; stellate tufts 3—6-branched (most 5—6) and very indistinctly frayed. Lateral comb on 8th abdominal segment comprises a row of

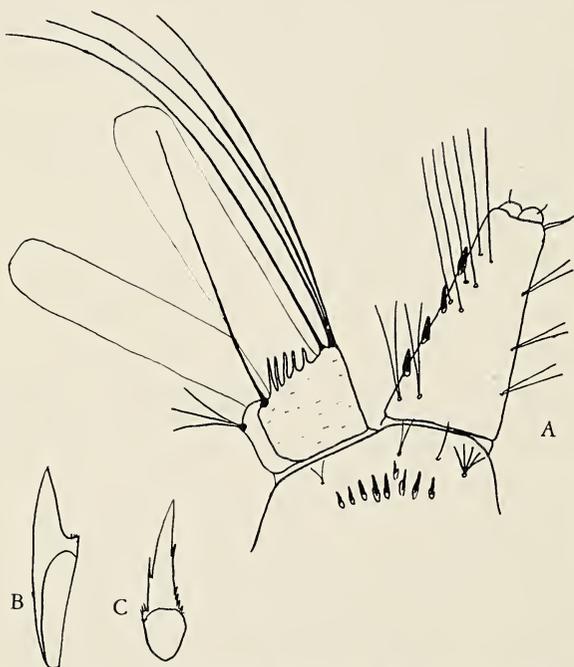


Fig. 2. Larva of *Tripteroides microlepis*; A. terminal segments; B. Enlarged comb tooth; C. enlarged pecten spine.

6—9 pointed teeth. Siphon cone-shaped, index about 2 (in one specimen distinctly less); pecten of 4—5 teeth in a row from about $\frac{1}{5}$ basally towards $\frac{2}{3}$ apically, teeth may be smooth or multidentate. Ventral hairs single, except for the two basal ones which are bifid. Dorsal hairs short, bifid. Saddle with a row of rather few but very strongly developed spines at the distal margin; saddle hair long and single. Dorsal subcaudal tuft 2—3-branched; ventral subcaudal single; ventral tuft relatively small, 3-branched; these

hairs are bare or inconspicuously frayed.

Anal gills very long and sausage-shaped. (Terminal segments illustrated in fig. 2.). Type material is deposited in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, the Netherlands; the source is Enarotali (Wissel lakes), bred from *Nepenthes* pitchers, collected in mossy forest at about 2000 m., August 1958.

References

- ASSEM J., VAN DEN, 1959, *Tijdsch. Ent.* 102 : 35.
 EDWARDS, F. W., 1927, *Nova Guinea (Zoologie)* 15 : 353.
 LEE, D. J., 1946, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* 70 : 270.