

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 combination "*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 Nongkodjadjar, Java, collected from the plant *Colocasia antiquarum* (Schott).

The types of *D. seminigra* (1 ♂, 2 ♀) 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 clumsy-looking).

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

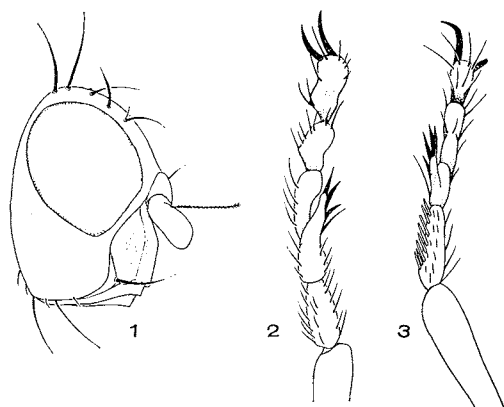


FIG. 1. *Drosophilella colocasiae* Duda, lectotype female, head in profile. × 75.

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

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following revision of his couplet might prove more satisfactory:

Acrostichal hairs in 6 rows; weak pre-scutellars present; one sternopleural; apical scutellars divergent; arista nearly twice as long as third antennal segment; carina exceptionally broad, the antennal bases thus quite far apart *seminigra*

Acrostichal hairs in 4 rows; no pre-scutellars; two sternopleurals; apical scutellars convergent; arista only slightly longer than third antennal segment (Fig. 1); carina not exceptionally broad, the antennal bases rather close together *colocasiae*

LITERATURE CITED

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