On the Systematic Position of some little-known Asiatic Mantodea, with Descriptions of two new Species belonging to the Genus Hestias. (Abstract.) By J. Wood-Mason.

Genus Hestias, Saussure.

The genus Hestias, proposed in 1871 by De Saussure for the reception of a remarkable insect from Sylhet, is referred to the subfamily Harpagidae, wherein it must take its place next after, or in the immediate neighbourhood of, Acromantis and its allies, from which it is readily distinguishable by the form of the prothorax, by the structure and by the peculiar style of colouring of the insides of the fore legs. &c. The author recognizes five species (of which two are now for the first time described), viz.:


Hestias Brunneriana, Saussure, Méé. Orthopt. i. 1871, 3me fasc. p. 454, Q; Wood-Mason, Proc. As. Soc. Beng. August 1876, Q.

Hab. Sylhet and Calcutta in Northern India, and Mysore in Southern India.

2. Hestias Rogenhoferi.

Pachymantis Rogenhoferi, Saussure, Méé. Orthopt. ii. 1872, p. 77, pl. ix. fig. 27, Q.

Hab. Moluccas?

3. Hestias pictipes, n. sp.

Male and Female. Head with a minute horn shaped like that of H. Brunneriana Q. Organs of flight of female not reaching, of male extending beyond, extremity of abdomen. Tegmina of female with the marginal field opaque light yellowish green, the rest delicately hyaline; wings with marginal field subopaque orange-yellow, the venation of the rest of the organ of the same colour narrowly lined with hyaline, and the meshes pale smoky. Fore coxae red-violet, especially internally, femora inside on the lower half jet-black, with three distinct white spots in a longitudinal row, and with a narrow black stripe extending from the base along fully three fourths of the length of the margin of the foliaceous expansion, the rest of the surface being rich red-violet.

Length of female about 19 millims., of male 17 millims.
The specimen of the male is somewhat bleached from long residence in spirit.

_Hab._ Female, Marble Rocks, near Jabalpur in the Central Provinces of India; male, precise locality unknown.

4. _Hestias inermis_, n. sp.

_Female._ Head without a vestige of a horn, with the postocular tubercles by correlation reduced to low, smooth, and rounded elevations, behind the ocelli longitudinally deeply 4-sulcate. Organs of flight not reaching extremity of body; tegmina with the light opaque umber-brown marginal field pubescent, and with the posterior field rich dark umber-brown, mottled in places with lighter and with hyaline, and crossed beyond the middle by a band half hyaline and half opaque cream-coloured; wings opaque lemon-yellow, very broadly margined with dark brown, with the transverse veinlets lined with hyaline.

Fore coxa jet-black inside; femora jet-black at base, whence this colour is continued for some distance as a marginal band onto the foliaceous expansion.

Length about 34 millims.

_Hab._ Nága Hills (Captain J. Butler). Very nearly allied to the following.

5. _Hestias phyllopus._

_Mantis (Oxypilus) phyllopus_, De Haan, Bijdr. &c. p. 84, pl. xvi. fig. 7, ♂.

The fore femora of male and female have two black stripes in the lower half (primitive femur).

The author has seen a specimen of the female either at Oxford or in the British Museum.

_Hab._ Java.

_Genus_ Oxypilus, Serville.

The author considers that this genus should be transferred from the Mantidae to the Harpagidae, and therein placed between the genera _Hestias_ and _Sigerpes_. _Ceratomantis Saussurii_, W.-M., and _Mantis (Oxypilus) bicingulata_, De Haan, are shown to be closely allied Asiatic species of it, having the same relation to one another, as regards degree of development of the cephalic horn, as have _Hestias Brunneriana_ and _Hestias pictipes_. _Oxypilus_ has in common with _Sigerpes_ the two posterior ocelli placed at the bases of spines. The author has only been able to study immature specimens of one African species; and if the perfect winged insects of these should hereafter be found to differ sufficiently from those of the Asiatic species to warrant their separation from them generically, the latter must take the name of _Pachymantis_ proposed for the reception of De Haan’s _Mantis bicingulata_ by De Saussure.—_Proc. As. Soc. Beng._ November 1879.