

UNDESCRIBED MALES OF TWO SPECIES OF GALL MIDGES*

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THE present paper deals with the descriptions of males of two species of Indian gall midges (Itonididæ: Diptera). Both the species were first described from female specimens collected by the author from Travancore; the following descriptions are based on males collected on subsequent dates.

The *Allotype* males are to be deposited in the Zoological Survey of India, Benares Cantt.

Trichopteromyia Manii Nayar

The author first described the species (Nayar, 1944) from female midges collected at light from Trivandrum. The following is a description of the male collected from Trivandrum on a later date, at light.

Male.—0.6 mm. long, brownish-red. Eyes confluent above. Palpi quadriarticulate, as in female, scaled; basal segment cylindrical, shortest; terminal segment longest, ovate, more or less pointed distally. Antennæ with fifteen segments, bearing whorls of long setæ, structure more or less similar to that of the female; first segment broadest, hemispherical, the rounded portion attached to the head; second segment globose, slightly compressed, its diameter three-fourths that of the broad end of the first, the attachment to the basal segment at an extra-central point; third a little less in diameter than the second; the stems increasing in size distally; thirteenth segment with a stem as long as the thickness of the third, the enlargement one-third as long as the length of the segment; fourteenth segment with a button-like process representing the fifteenth segment, the enlargement more than two and a half times as thick as the fifteenth. Mesonotum smoky brown. Wings hyaline, as in the female. Halteres blackish brown. Legs smoky-brown, moderately hairy, hindlegs longest. Claws simple, as long as the empodium. Abdomen reddish and dark scaled. Genitalia small; basal clasp segment cylindrical, oblong, three-fifths as broad as long; terminal clasp segment small, sting-like, oblong-ovoid,

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slightly longer than the breadth of the basal clasp segment, with a pin-like pointed tip, slightly hairy; style small, rounded at tip, about as long as the basal clasp segment.

Type locality: Trivandrum. Collected at light on various dates in June 1944.

This species differs from the genotype *Trichopteromyia modesta* Williston in the smaller size of the body, the quadriarticulate palpi and the antennal characters.

Prolasioptera æschynanthus-perottetti Mani

Mani (1943) described the species from female specimens bred by me from stem galls on *Aeschynanthus perottetti* A. Dc., from Pampadamparai Hills in the High Ranges of Travancore. Subsequently I was able to rear males also. The following is a description of the male:

Male. 2 mm. long, brownish. Palpi as in the female. Antennæ incomplete, similar to that of the female; third and fourth segments fused together. Mesonotum dark brown. Wings and halteres as in the female. Abdomen comparatively stout. Genitalia (Fig. 1) small; basal clasp seg-

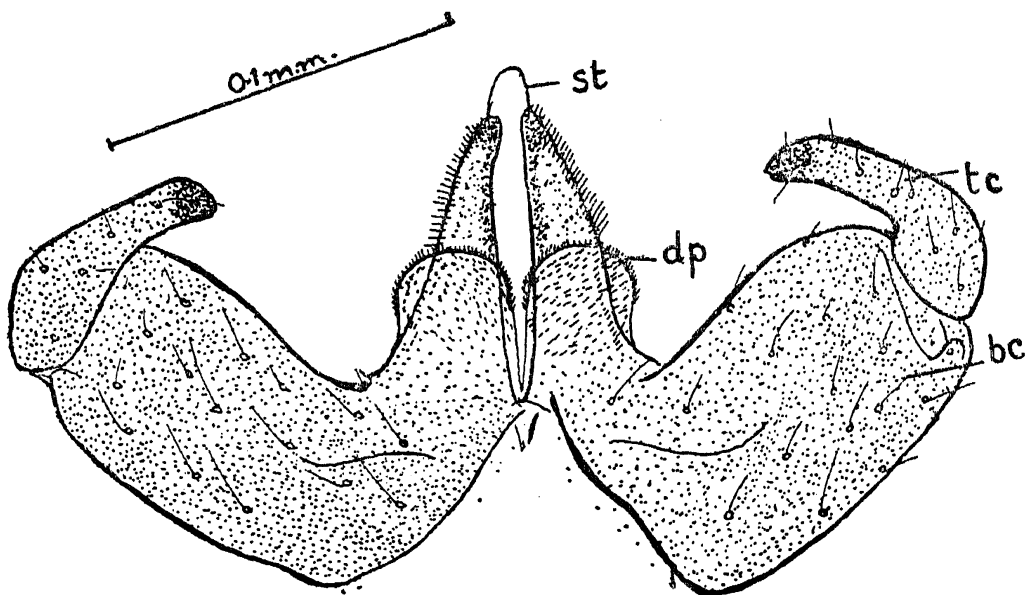


FIG. 1. Male genitalia of *Prolasioptera æschynanthus-perottetti* Mani.
bc, basal clasp segment; dp, dorsal plate; st, style; tc, terminal clasp segment.

ment oblong, its length slightly less than double its own breadth; terminal clasp segment roughly rounded at its joint with the basal clasp segment, malleiform, with fairly serrated and moderately chitinised tip, length about two-thirds that of the basal clasp segment, broadest part about one-third its own length; style as long as the basal clasp segment; dorsal plate deeply cleft and truncated distally.

Type locality: Pampadamparai Hills in the High Ranges of Travancore. Reared from stem galls on *Aeschynanthus perottetti* A. Dc., in August 1944.

This species is easily distinguished from the other Indian species *Prolasioptera annandalei* Mani, by the longer body and the twenty-one segmented antennæ.

Nayar (1945) described the stem gall on *Aeschynanthus perottetti* A. Dc., from which the midges were bred. A leaf gall has also been collected by him on the same plant, from Pampadamparai Hills, and is believed to be produced by the same midge. I give below the description of the gall:

Leaf gall.—16 mm. long, 5 to 9 mm. across, irregular, green with a violetishbrown tinge, soft, succulent, somewhat granulated inside, hypophyllous, with a number of larval chambers inside.

Locality: Pampadamparai Hills.

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