



## ***XII.—Notes on some Larrid Wasps from the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, with the description of one new species***

Francis X. Williams

To cite this article: Francis X. Williams (1936) XII.—*Notes on some Larrid Wasps from the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, with the description of one new species*, Annals and Magazine of Natural History, 18:103, 124-130, DOI: [10.1080/00222933608655179](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222933608655179)

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222933608655179>



Published online: 18 Aug 2009.



Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)



Article views: 5

XII.—Notes on some Larrid Wasps from the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, with the Description of One new Species. By FRANCIS X. WILLIAMS, Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, Experiment Station, Honolulu, Hawaii.

SOME time ago the writer received two collections of wasps of the family Larridæ from the British Solomon Islands. Nearly all of this material was collected by Mr. H. T. Pagden, with a few specimens, including an apparently new species, collected by Mr. R. J. Lever. I am indebted to these two gentlemen for the opportunity of studying this interesting collection, and regret my inability to determine positively all the material. The lot totals 73 specimens, distributed in 12 species that are included in 6 genera, as follows :—

1. *Larra rufipes* (Smith, 1859).

1 ♀ and 3 ♂♂: Kolombangara: Karikana, Jack Harbour, 1 ♀, 7. vi. 1934. Guadalcanal: Lunga, flowers *Mimosa pudica*, 1 ♂, 6. xii. 1933. New Georgia: Segi, Marovo Lagoon, 1 ♂, 5. v. 1934. Vella Lavella: Suana-telli nr. Dobeli, jungle, 1 ♂, 24. ix. 33 (*H. T. Pagden*).

The Australian *L. femorata* (Sauss.) is very closely related to this species, and even more so is *L. luzonensis* Rohwer from the Philippines.

*L. rufipes* has a rather wide distribution, being already recorded from Tenasserim, Ceylon, Celebes, Java, Sumatra, and New Britain (New Pommern).

2. *Notogonidea subtessellata* (Smith, 1856).

6 ♀♀ and 3 ♂♂: Tulagi, 1 ♀, 3. vii. 1933; 1 ♂, 22. vii. 1934; jungle, on ridge, 1 ♀, 23. vii. 1933, 1 ♂, 13. viii. 1933; 1 ♀, with prey, 16. ix. 1934. Ganonga Island: Emu Harbour, 1 ♂, 30. v. 1934, 1 ♀, 18. ix. 1933. Guadalcanal Island: Lavoro, 17. ii. 34 (*H. T. Pagden*). Russell Islands: Yandina, 1 ♀, 7. 1933 (*R. J. Lever*).

The specimens have all dark femora.

One of the commonest and most widely distributed of Oriental species. Introduced from the Philippines into the Hawaiian Islands in 1921.

3. *Notogonidea laboriosa* (Smith, 1856).

Russell Islands: Banika Is., Lingatu, 1 ♀, 17. vii. 1933 (*H. T. Pagden*).

A well known and widely distributed Oriental species, with the bevel of the clypeus of the female densely punctate almost to the margin. Described from the Philippine Islands.

4. *Notogonidea manilæ* (Ashmead, 1905).

5 ♀♀ and 7 ♂♂: Tulagi: burrowing in ground, 1 ♀, 29. vi. 1933; on waste ground, 1 ♂, 2. vii. 1933; coast path, 1 ♂, 30. vii. 1933; jungle cutting, 1 ♂, 25. xi. 1934; swamp, 1 ♂, 25. xii. 1934. Russell Islands: Lingatu Estate, 1 ♀, 1 ♂, 14. vii. 1933; Lingatu, on *Euphorbia*, 1 ♀, 15. vii. 1933. Guadalcanal Island: nr. Lavoro, irrigated taro, 1 ♂, 31. viii. 1934. Nggela Island (Florida Is.): Mali Ali, 1 ♂, 26. iii. 1934. New Georgia Island: Segi, Marovo Lagoon, 1 ♀, 10. v. 1934. Shortland Island: Kokonai, W. Solomons, 1 ♂, 27. iv. 34.

Likewise a common species in many parts of the East Indies, etc. It is very variable, and I cannot separate it specifically from *N. retiaris* Turner of Australia.

5. *Notogonidea* sp.

2 ♀♀ and 1 ♂: Savo Island: Reko, with prey, 1 ♀, 23. ii. 1934. Guadalcanal Island: nr. Lavoro, in irrigated taro area, 1 ♀ and 1 ♂, 31. viii. 1934 (*H. T. Pagden*).

I am unable to place this species, which in general resembles a large edition of *N. manilæ*; the sagittæ of the male, however, are darkly chitinized and somewhat rod-like, much like those of *M. samoensis* Williams (1928). It may be *N. tristis* (Smith, 1856) described from Borneo.

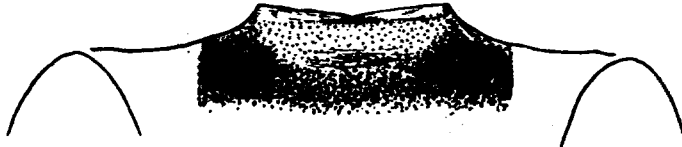
6. *Liris melania* Turner (1916). (Fig. 1.)

5 ♀♀ and 2 ♂♂: Guadalcanal Island: Lunga, 1 ♀ and 1 ♂, 8. vii. 1933; 2 ♀♀, 10. vii. 1933; Nugu, jungle, 1 ♀, 20. ii. 1934. Tulagi: Chinese store, 1 ♀, 12. ix. 1933; Hospital, 1 ♂, 26. vii. 1933 (*H. T. Pagden*).

The typical *melania* females described from North Queensland, Australia, have the pubescence and pile mainly silvery, the pygidium, however, being covered

with golden or bronzy pile; the females from the Solomon Islands have brassy pile on the cheeks and occiput and on the top of the thorax. They do not differ in structure, however, from the Australian *melania*. What I consider the male of *melania* is represented in the collection before me by two specimens well clothed with golden

Fig. 1.

*Liris melania* Turner, male. Clypeus.

pile, even the abdominal fasciæ being tinged with that colour. The clypeus of this sex, which appears to be undescribed, is shown in fig. 1. The median carina (present on the basal half, or less, of the second abdominal sternite of the female) is lacking in the male.

#### 7. *Liris mindanaoensis* Williams (1928).

3 ♀♀: Tulagi: Cocos, 1 ♀, ix. 32 (*R. J. Lever*); Chinese store, 1 ♀, 12. ix. 1933. Gizo: in house, 3. v. 1934 (*H. T. Pagden*).

A somewhat larger and duskier insect than *L. melania*, although difficult to separate in the female sex. *L. mindanaoensis* was described from the southern Philippines.

#### 8. *Liris corniger*, sp. n. (Figs. 2 & 3.)

*Female*, type: length 12.5 mm.

Rather dull black; apical portion of mandibles dark reddish, wings a little infuscate. Clypeus with a low median ridge on the disk, which is finely reticulate and bears sparse piliferous punctures, of which there are larger ones anteriorly; the bevel or marginal strip more polished and interrupted medially by a prominent rather downbent tooth; maxillary palpi 6-jointed, labial palpi 4-jointed; antennal joint 3 very slightly longer than 4, interocular space at vertex a little less than the length of joints 2+3. Head very finely reticulate-punctate though rather bare and polished in front; eyes above,

close to occiput. Thorax finely reticulate-punctate; disk of propodeum with a rather broad and shallow median sulcus to apex, crossed by recurved wrinkles that become less distinct and nearly straight on the pleuræ, the posterior face finely reticulate, with a strong median impressed line and subobsolete transverse wrinkles. Wings with

Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

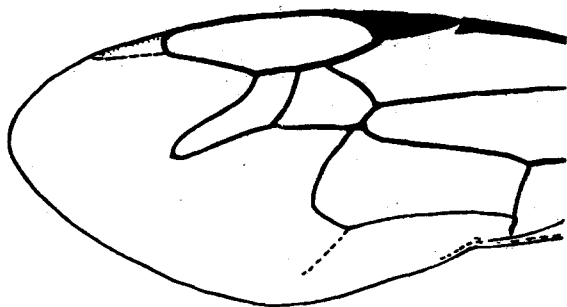


Fig. 2.—*Liris corniger*, sp. n., female, type. Clypeus and mandibles from above; at A, mandible from outer side.

Fig. 3.—Ditto. Portion of fore wing.

abscissæ in the following order of decreasing length: 4, 1, 3, 2 and 5. Posterior tibiæ well keeled. Second abdominal sternite keeled from the base for somewhat less than its length. Pygidium of usual form, gently rounded apically, the disk covered with golden bronze

pile and bearing sparser suberect brownish bristles. Vestiture rather sparse; silvery pile on sides of clypeus (and probably also on face, which is greasy), cheeks, and rather sparsely and in certain lights on the thorax; a patch below the base of the wings; segments 1-3 of the abdomen with a silvery band, most distinct laterally; some long light brown hairs on clypeus and some fine erect whitish hairs on head and thorax.

This insect, which is in fresh condition though with the face accidentally caved in, belongs to the *melania* group, but the strong median tooth of *corniger* readily separates it from those of the *melania* group known to me and which have a notched clypeus.

One female (type) numbered 2905, Supaina, S. Mala; on log 21. v. 34 (*H. J. A. W. Lever*). Deposited in the British Museum.

#### 9. *Tachysphex* sp. ?

2 ♂♂: Guadalcanal Island: Lunga, on *Clitoria*, 1 ♂, 10. vii. 1933. Tulagi: on path, 1 ♂, 23. viii. 1933 (*H. T. Pagden*).

#### 10. *Tachysphex* sp. ?

5 ♀♀ and 7 ♂♂: Tulagi: jungle, 1 ♀, 6. viii. 1933. Ganonga Island: Emu Harbour, 2 ♀♀ and 5 ♂♂, 29. v. 1934; 1 ♀ and 1 ♂, 30. v. 1934; 1 ♀ and 1 ♂, 16 and 17. ix. 33 (*H. T. Pagden*).

#### 11. *Dicranorhina nigra* (Maidl, 1925). (Figs. 4-6.)

2 ♀♀ and 15 ♂♂: Ganonga Island: Emu Harbour, on *Jasmine* 5 ♂♂ and 1 ♀, 17 and 18. ix. 1933; 1 ♀ and 10 ♂♂, 29 & 30. v. 1934 (*H. T. Pagden*).

In 'Fauna Sumatrensis' (Entomolog. Mitteilungen, xiv. 1925, nr. 5/6, on pp. 388 & 382) Dr. F. Maidl describes and figures *Piagetia nigra* from the female sex. The two females from the Solomon Islands agree very well with it. The male resembles somewhat *D. palawanensis* Williams from the Philippines, differing from the latter, however, in its darker appendages, the antennæ being practically all blackish in *nigra*, the clypeus (fig. 4) being more prominent, the tubercle at the base of the hind femora (fig. 5) somewhat better developed, and the

Fig. 4.

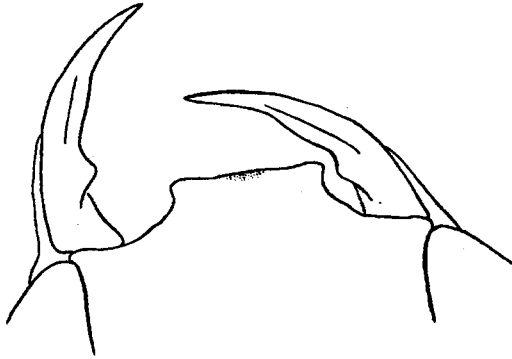


Fig. 5.

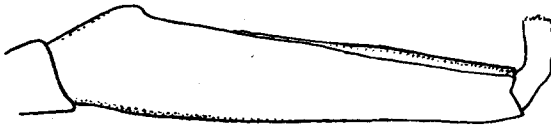


Fig. 6.

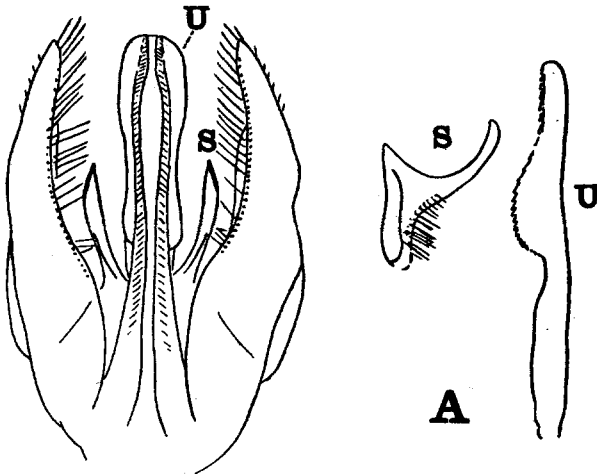


Fig. 4.—*Dicranorhina nigra* Maidl, male. Mandibles and clypeus.  
 Fig. 5.—Ditto. Left hind femur, from within.  
 Fig. 6.—Ditto. Armature, from above; U=uncus; S=sagitta. At A, an uncus and a sagitta are shown from the side.

sides of the propodeum striate instead of just very finely punctate as in *palawanensis*. The armature of the male is shown in fig. 6 (p. 129).

12. *Lyroda formosa* (Smith, 1859).

2 ♀♀: Tulagi, path near hotel, 1 ♀, 6. v. 1934. Vangunu Island: Bopu, W. Solomons, 1 ♀, 13. xi. 1933 (*H. T. Pagden*).

Correctly determined by Mr. Pagden. Occurs also in Celebes, Philippines, and parts of India.

XIII.—Notes on the Genus *Ædipoda* Linné (*Orthoptera*, *Acrididæ*). By B. P. UVAROV, D.Sc., British Museum (Natural History).

I.—SUBSPECIES OF *ÆDIPODA FUSCOCINCTA*  
LUCAS, 1849.

The following four subspecies are known:—

1. *Ædipoda fuscocincta fuscocincta* Lucas, 1849.

Posterior wings bright sulphur-yellow, practically without a radial branch of the fascia.—Algeria, Morocco.

2. *Ædipoda fuscocincta sicula* Filber, 1853.

Usually recorded from Sicily as *Æ. fuscocincta fuscocincta* (see Ramme, 'Eos,' iii. p. 163, 1927), but the Sicilian specimens differ from the typical Algerian subspecies by a very pale greenish-yellow colour of the wing-disc, as well as by somewhat shorter elytra, and should be separated subspecifically, with the name given to them by Filber, but ignored by subsequent authors.

3. *Ædipoda fuscocincta cœrulea* Saussure, 1884.

1884. *Ædipoda miniata* var. *cœrulea* Saussure, Prodr. *Ædipod.* p. 150.

1897. *Ædipoda fuscocincta* var. *iberica* I. Bolivar, Actas Soc. Esp. Hist. Nat. 1897, p. 169 (*syn. nov.*).

1931. *Ædipoda fuscocincta portugalensis* Ramme, Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin, 17 Bd. p. 193 (*syn. nov.*).

Saussure's description of var. *cœrulea*, based on a specimen of unknown origin, is sufficiently exact to recognise the Iberian blue-winged subspecies of *Æ. fusco-*