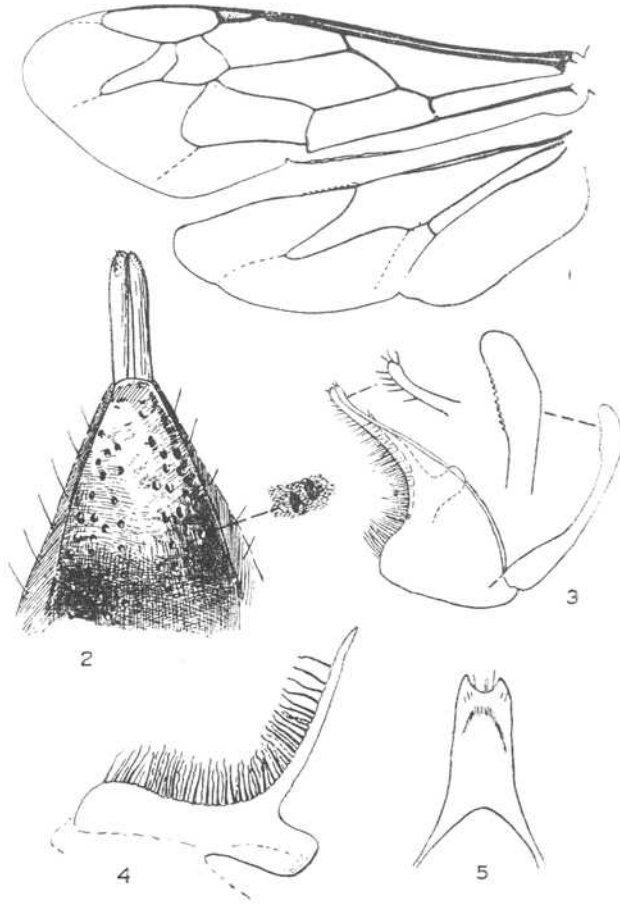


AN APPARENTLY UNDESCRIBED *TACHYSPHEX* (HYMENO-
PTERA, LARRIDAE) FROM TRINIDAD, B.W.I.

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IN a small collection of aculeate wasps received from Dr. Edward McC. Callan of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, B.W.I., is a species of *Tachyspex* which is herewith described as a new species.

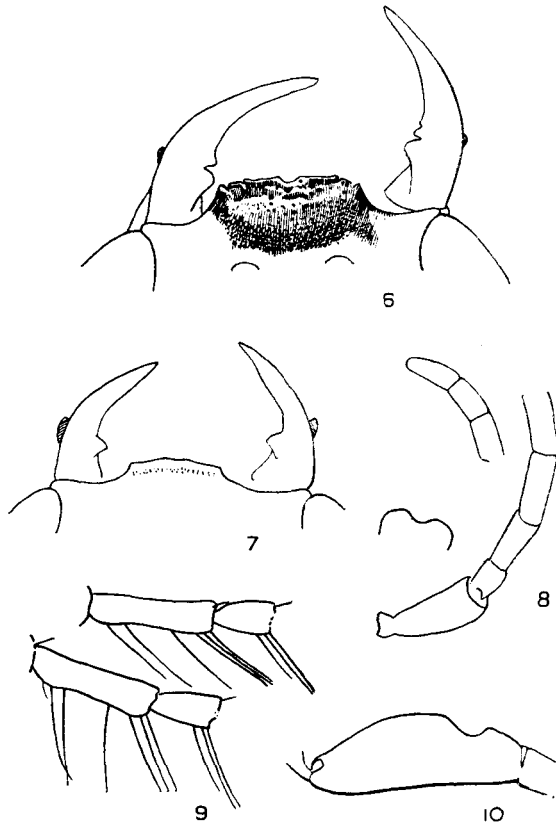


FIGS. 1-5.—*Tachyspex blatticidus* sp. n. 1, wings, ♀; 2, pygidium, ♀; 3, armature, ♂, from side; 4, armature, ♂, inner paired piece, from side; 5, last visible ventral segment, ♂.

***Tachyspex blatticidus* sp. n.**

Female, type. Length 8 mm. Head slightly wider than thorax, the latter short. Black; mandibles with a red band at about their middle; spurs and spines pale brown,

tarsal comb very pale, almost whitish. Clypeus subtruncately produced, notched mesially and with three lateral teeth; the rather broadly depressed margin nearly impunctate, shining, the bevel with a few large deep punctures; disc with fine well-separated punctures towards base and sides, sparse large punctures and polished area mesially towards bevel; antennal joint 3 shorter than 4, 4 and 5 subequal, interocular space at vertex greater than $2 + 3$ but a little less than $3 + 4$; frons rather opaque, with fine well-spaced punctures in an exceedingly fine reticulate field, the ocellar area and vertex more shining; a weak impressed line from anterior ocellus not reaching to near base of antennae; a stronger line



FIGS. 6-10.—*Tachysphex blatticidus* sp. n. 6, clypeus, ♀; 7, clypeus, ♂; 8, labrum and portion of antennae, ♀; 9, portion of tarsal comb, 2 ♀; 10, fore femur, ♂, from side.

extending posteriorly into the postocellar arcuate depression, whence another impressed line extends towards the occiput; dorsum of thorax polished, the punctures of the scutum well separated except at base, scutellum with finer punctures, postscutellum still more finely and sparsely punctured; pleura with separate rather delicate punctures; disc of propodeum not very shining, with rudimentary diverging striae basally, becoming finely rugose up to the slight shining apical depression and finely reticulate at sides, the pleura polished, with fine piliferous punctures only; posterior face shining with a cuneiform fovea, and some transverse wrinkles above at sides, separated from the disc by a fine mesially interrupted carina. Apex of marginal cell narrowly rounded-truncate. Fore tarsal

comb of fine long bristles. Pygidium shining, with rather large and sparse punctures. Vestiture: face and occiput with fairly dense pale golden pubescence extending to ocellar area; generally paler and sparse on thorax; abdomen with pale sericeous golden bands on the slightly depressed apical portion of segments 1-5.

Male, allotype. Length 6.75 mm. Much like female, subtruncate clypeal process slightly emarginate mesially, no lateral teeth (except lateral angles); antennae relatively stouter; joints 2 + 3 less than, and 3 + 4 about equal to or very slightly less than interocular space; last visible ventral segment emarginate at apex; inner paired piece of aedeagus bearing a comb of fine erect hair.

Specimens examined:—B.W.I., TRINIDAD: St. Augustine, type ♀ and allotype ♂, ♂ and 9 ♀ paratypes, 15.viii.1938 (*E. McC. Callan*); B.W.I., TRINIDAD, ♂ paratype, iii.1935, No. 3601 (*D. Vesey-FitzGerald*).

Additional specimens not examined:—B.W.I., TRINIDAD: St. Augustine, 8 ♂ and 6 ♀, 15.viii.1938 (*E. McC. Callan*).

Type, allotype and 3 ♀♀ paratypes will be deposited in the British Museum; ♂ and 3 ♀ paratypes in the U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C.; ♂ (No. 3601) and 3 ♀ paratypes in the collection of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association Experiment Station, Honolulu, Hawaii; 8 males and 6 females in the collection of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, B.W.I.

Named on account of its habit of preying on cockroaches (BLATTIDAE), several of the prey being pinned with the wasp specimens.

There is little variation in the series. The intermediate tooth on each side of the clypeus of the female is sometimes narrower and more acute. The post-ocellar arcuate line is rather weak mesially, suggesting a wedge rather than an arch there.

This insect has one or more near relatives on the South American mainland. A female *Tachysphex* taken by me from the environs of Belem, Para, Brazil, differs in having the tarsal comb of somewhat shorter, stouter and darker bristles.