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3. Report on a small Collection of Hymenoptera and Diptera from the Timor Laut Islands, formed by Mr. H. O. Forbes. By W. F. KIRBY, Assistant in the Zoological Department, British Museum.

[Received April 16, 1883.]

The Timor Laut or Tenimber Islands are a small archipelago situated to the north of Australia, about halfway between the island of Timor and the Aru Islands. The largest island is Timor Laut; but the small collection before me, consisting of only five species of Hymenoptera (all new) and three of Diptera, was formed in two of the smaller islands, viz. Larat and Maroe. I will now proceed to describe the Hymenoptera and to notice the Diptera, merely remarking that they exhibit strong affinities to those of the surrounding groups of islands, as would naturally be anticipated beforehand. The specimens are numbered; and I have noted these numbers throughout.

HYMENOPTERA ACULEATA.

APIDÆ.

CROCISA CÆRULEIFRONS, sp. n.

Long. corp. 5 lin.

Female. Black, face and orbits (very broadly above) blue; prothorax with a short stripe behind on each side above, and a very large spot on the sides; mesothorax with seven blue spots—two small

ones on the front border, adjoining those on the prothorax, a longitudinal one between, then two slightly oval ones near the middle, and a large irregular spot behind on each side, projecting a branch forward within the very large black tegulæ; scutellum black, strongly excavated in the middle; abdomen with the first segment blue, a narrow longitudinal line, the greater part of the hind border, and a long transverse spot contiguous to it black; the remaining segments of the abdomen are black, with a wide blue stripe sloping slightly upwards on each side; legs black, all the tibiæ with a wide blue stripe on the outside; wings dark purplish brown. (2128, Maroe.)

Allied to *C. nitidula*, Fabr., a species common in Amboina, Australia, &c., but apparently distinct.

XYLOCOPA FORBESII, sp. n.

Long. corp. 10 lin.

Male. Thickly clothed above with olive-green pubescence, as in the male of *X. æstuans*, Linn., or of *X. bryorum*, Fabr.; antennæ black above and fulvous beneath, the hairs on the middle of the under surface of the body, especially towards the tip, those on the lower part of the face, and the very long hairs on the tarsi shading into fulvo-ferruginous; wings brownish hyaline, with a slight violet shade, and marked on all the cells along the hind margin with numerous black dots, as in the allied species; proboscis black, probably reddish within and at the base when extended. (1988, Larat.)

Female. Black, thickly clothed with black hairs, and very thickly and finely punctured, except on the middle of the mesothorax, which is smooth and shining, and has a short longitudinal furrow in front; head clothed with bright yellow pubescence, that on the face thinner and paler; wings with a bright green iridescence, purplish along the veins towards the base; apical half of the antennæ pale beneath; proboscis mostly reddish; under surface of body thickly punctured, but with some bare spaces along the middle line. (1958, Larat; 2019, Maroe.)

Closely allied to *X. coronata*, Smith, from Kaioa; but in the female of that species (which doubtless has a male similar to that of *X. forbesii*) the wings have a bright violet instead of a green iridescence.

VESPIDÆ.

POLISTES EXTRANEUS, sp. n.

Long. corp. 5 lin.

Female. Head and thorax bright chestnut; clypeus pentagonal, bright yellow; mandibles with a yellow mark on each side; antennæ dull yellow; the scape, second joint, and upper part of the third reddish; prothorax narrowly edged with yellow in front and behind; scutellum with a transverse yellow line; metathorax edged with yellow on the sides; abdomen with the first joint yellow, with a broad red stripe, bordered behind with black, extending for two thirds of its length above, second and third segments blackish

brown, the third bordered with yellow behind, the fourth yellow bordered with blackish brown in front and behind, and the fifth and sixth dull reddish; wings brownish hyaline, with reddish-brown nervures, yellow stigma, and brown borders. (2025, Maroe.)

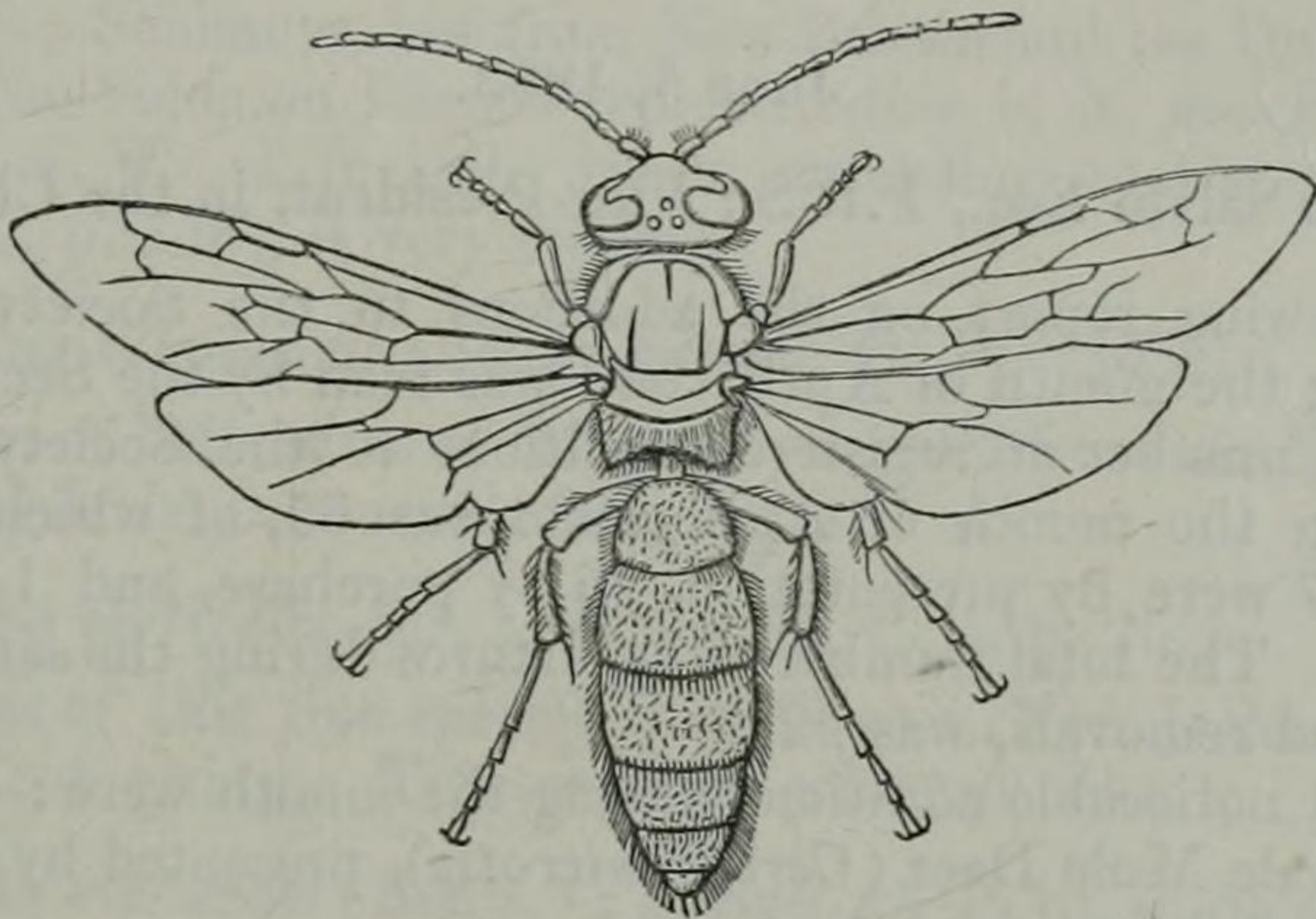
Closely allied to *P. stigma*, Fabr., from India, Ceram, and Celebes.

SCOLIIDÆ.

DIELIS LARATENSIS, sp. n.

Long. corp. $10\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Female. Black; sides of thorax and abdomen, and legs clothed with black hair; face black; clypeus very finely punctured above, and more coarsely on its lower edge, and bordered at the sides and below with yellow pubescence; mandibles pitchy; thorax and



Dielis laratensis.

abdomen finely punctured, much more densely than elsewhere on the sides of the abdomen and on the four terminal segments, both above and below; thorax and abdomen with strong steel-blue reflexions, especially on the basal half of the abdomen above; wings deep violet-brown, second recurrent nervure incomplete, diverging from the first at the base and on the left wing; the nervule connecting the recurrent nervures above the middle is also obsolete. (1957, Larat).

Much resembles the Australian *Trielis anthracina*, Burm., in appearance.

CHRYSIDIDÆ.

CHRYSIS MELANOPS, sp. n.

Long. corp. 5 lin.

Male. Bright green, with a coppery reflection on the head and thorax (very bright coppery red wherever abraded); punctures large, close together, but not confluent; ocelli black, the space between and immediately around also blackish; apex of abdomen (and summit, when viewed sideways) with a strong blue reflection; under surface of antennæ, the greater part of the hind legs, and the

tips and under surface of the middle tibiæ and middle tarsi brown ; abdomen sexdentate, with equal and rather pointed teeth of moderate size ; wings brown. (2049, Maroe.)

Probably allied to *C. parallela*, Brullé, from Timor ; but that species is varied with blue on the head and thorax, instead of with copper.

DIPTERA.

The only Diptera in the collection were *Plecia fulvicollis*, Wied., and *Laphria gloriosa*, Walk., both of which are common species in the Eastern Archipelago, and a *Tabanus*, possibly new, but in too bad condition to describe.

June 5, 1883.

Osbert Salvin Esq., F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of April 1883 was read by the Secretary :—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of April 1883 was 65, of which one was by birth, 27 were by presentation, 26 by purchase, and 11 received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 92.

The most noticeable additions during the month were :—

1. A female Mule Deer (*Cervus microtis*), presented by Dr. J. D. Caton, C.M.Z.S., received April 6th.

The accession of this animal gives us two pairs of this fine Deer now living in the Society's Gardens. The present specimen was obtained in North-western Nebraska, and forwarded through the kind courtesy of Mr. W. A. Conklin, C.M.Z.S., of the Central Park Menagerie, New York.

2. A Great Black Cockatoo (*Microglossa aterrima*), purchased April 10th.

This individual seems to belong to the smaller and more greyish form of this species, which is sometimes called *M. alecto* ; but it seems doubtful, according to the best authorities, whether the forms are really distinct.

3. A Bluish Shrew (*Crocidura cærulescens*), purchased April 19th.

The Insectivora are always hard to keep alive in captivity ; but this little Shrew seems to have borne its voyage from India and to be likely to do well.

The Secretary also laid before the meeting a list of the species of Lepidopterous Insects which had emerged from pupæ in the Insect-House up to date, 23 in all ; and called special attention to examples of *Sesia sphegiformis* and *Papilio cresphontes*, which had not been previously bred in the Society's Insect-House.