

exemplified in this case. The short abstract of the paper printed by the British Association, concludes by stating that no female *varleyata* showing the white radii had been bred. Yet in the very next sentence in Mr. Onslow's paper, from which this observation was taken, we read: "Recently, however, this observer" (myself) "has bred from radiated stock a *leucosticta* ♀." As a point of fact, two seasons ago I bred several females with the male white radiate markings as strongly developed as Mr. Onslow's figure 9 labelled *actinota*. Of course, if these ordinary forms of the male are not to be regarded as *varleyata*, a radiated female *varleyata* never could be bred! I have also bred a number of specimens of *varleyata* having broad black rings around the body, and one or two with the body almost completely black, which Mr. Onslow states has never been done. Lastly, there must be some mistake about the figures 11 and 12 on Mr. Onslow's plate, which are referred to as var. *hazeleighensis*. They certainly do not represent that well-known form, nor have they the least resemblance to it. They come near to being good representations of two of the Aberdeen forms of *grossulariata*, but have nothing whatever to do with *hazeleighensis*.

Elm Lea, Dalton, Huddersfield.

May 6th, 1922.

SOME NOTES ON *PONERA PUNCTATISSIMA* ROGER.

BY HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.E.S., ETC.

In 1921, Dr. F. Santschi redescribed and figured the worker of *Ponera punctatissima* Roger, for which he gave the following explanation:—

In August 1920 he captured some 17 ♂♂ of a *Ponera* at Hammamet, Tunisia, at the bottom of an old well, which was damp but without water. These were identical with a specimen taken by Théry at Rabat in Morocco, and an example in his collection from Jyväskylä (Sahlberg) received from Mons. Forel. On referring to the descriptions and figures of *P. punctatissima* given by Emery and Bonhoit, he found that they appeared to have a much shorter scape to the antennae than that of his examples, and he therefore came to the conclusion that he had discovered a new species. He sent a specimen to Mons. Emery, who identified it with *P. punctatissima* Rog. He next sent an example to Mons. L. Berland, of the Paris Museum, and asked

him to compare it with Roger's type in the André collection. M. Berland sent him a sketch of the head of the type and told him that: (1) The scape reaches the posterior border of the head; (2) the frontal furrow is broad to nearly the middle of the head, and then continues in a fine line which reaches the posterior border. Being fresher, his example was somewhat lighter in colour than the type, but otherwise agreed with it in all particulars. Mons. Santschi therefore considered it was necessary to correct the figures and descriptions of *P. punctatissima*, which give it too short a scape and do not mention the frontal furrow. This last character easily separates it from both *P. coarctata* Latr. and *P. edouardi* Forel. In his figure he shows the thorax and petiole in profile; the thorax and abdomen from above; the head from above; and the labial and maxillary palpi. Mons. C. Emery, in his ants of the Palaearctic region (1919), figures the head of the ♂ with the scape not reaching the posterior border of the head. In his table he distinguishes *coarctata*, *japonica*, *edouardi*, and *punctatissima* from *abeillei* and *ragusai*, by the mesonotum being separated from the pleura by a suture (Santschi does not show this suture in his profile figure of *punctatissima*, though he does for *coarctata* v. *atlantis*); and *punctatissima* from *edouardi* by the scape not reaching the posterior border of the head.

In "British Ants" (1915) I did not use these characters, as there are many which serve to separate *punctatissima* from *coarctata*, our only other British species. Recently, however, when my friend Mr. Harwood sent me ♂ ♂ and winged ♀ ♀ of a *Ponera* from Westerham (Donisthorpe, 1922), which I at once saw were not *coarctata*, I used Emery's table to make sure they were not some species other than *punctatissima*, and I found that the mesonotum was separated from the pleura by a faint but perceptible suture, and the scape did not reach the posterior border of the head!

After I had seen Dr. Santschi's paper, I proceeded to overhaul all the specimens of *P. punctatissima* I could get hold of in Britain. These were from Edinburgh; Oxford; Old Ford, London; Bromley; Westerham; Chatham; Queenborough; Southsea; Gibraltar; and St. Helena.

The specimens from Oxford included the type of *P. tarda* Charsley (for the loan of which I have to thank my friend Prof. E. B. Poulton), about which species Er. André wrote (1881):—"M. Charsley d'Oxford a décrit, sous le nom *P. tarda*, une espèce trouvée en Angleterre et qui n'est autre que la *P. punctatissima* ainsi que j'ai pu m'en assurer par

l'examen d'exemplaires typiques ♂, ♀ et ♂/♀ qu'a bien voulu me communiquer l'auteur."

To ascertain whether the scape reached the posterior border of the head, I did not trust to measurements, but in every case I bent the scape back right over the head. This can be done without any danger to the specimen if the antenna be first damped with a paint-brush dipped in water or, better still, in wood-naphtha. In one specimen, taken by me at Queenborough in 1912, the scape almost reaches the posterior border; but in the case of all the others, I should say it distinctly did not, and in some this was very evident. I asked my friend Mr. Bedwell, who has taken the species at Old Ford, and also at Queenborough, to examine his series in this way. He tells me that in the former specimens the scape does not reach the posterior border, but "the scape of the Queenborough specimen however does appear to just about reach the posterior border of the head."

I have therefore come to the conclusion, from the examination of the above material, that the length of the scape varies considerably in this species, as does also the presence, distinctness, or absence of the suture which divides the mesonotum from the pleura. The frontal furrow appears, however, to be a good and constant character.

Mons. Emery tells me that he has 2 ♂ ♀ from Switzerland and 1 ♀ from Paris which show the suture separating the disc of the mesonotum from the pleura; and 1 ♂ from Switzerland (from the same colony as the other two) and 2 ♂ ♀ from Africa which do not show the suture. The ♂ ♀ which show the suture are a little more robust and have the thorax more developed. They are somewhat gynaeceoid. The scapes, however, do not reach the posterior border of the head. Roger's type of the ♂ of *P. punctatissima* is in the Museum at Berlin. *Ponera punctatissima* is a very interesting and rare species, of obscure habits; occurring in hot-houses and buildings, but also at large in nature. A full account of its life-history, as far as is known, can be found in "British Ants."

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AN APHID GENUS AND SPECIES NEW TO BRITAIN
(*TRILOBAPHIS CARICIS*).

BY FRED. V. THEOBALD, M.A.

TRILOBAPHIS, gen. nov.

Head with three large lobes in front; the median one almost globular and slightly dorsal. Antennae very short, reaching to about the middle legs, of six segments; the basal segment large, and with an inwardly projecting blunt process. Proboscis short and thick. Cornicles long, thick, cylindrical, constricted at apex, slightly swollen on the inner side towards the apex; with marked imbrication; about two-thirds the length of the antennae. Cauda small, but prominent, about one-third the length of the cornicles, and about the same width to slightly narrower. Anal plate bluntly triangulate. Legs short, the hind pair not projecting beyond the apex of the body. Eyes large, with prominent ocular process.

Type in the writer's collection.

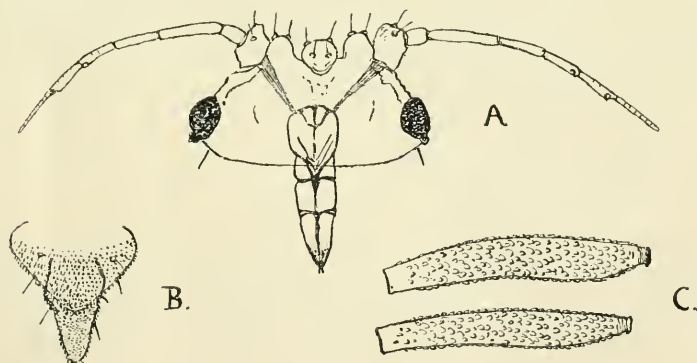


Fig. 1.—*Trilobaphis caricis*, sp. nov.

'A. Head of apterous viviparous ♀; B. Cauda and anal plate; C. Cornicles.

The apterous female stage only is known and is very marked, owing to the peculiar structure of the head and the very marked large cornicles.