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House of the Resurrection,  
Mirfield, Yorks.  
January 12th, 1939.

NEW MYRMECOPHILOUS STAPHYLINIDAE (COL.) FROM  
EAST AFRICA.

BY MALCOLM CAMERON, M.B., R.N., F.R.E.S.

**Doryloxenus henningsi** sp. nov.

Shining, the fore-parts pitchy black; the front of the head, margins of the thorax and posterior margin of the elytra narrowly translucent and yellowish; abdomen dark reddish-brown, towards the apex lighter. Length 1.5—1.75 mm.

A little smaller and narrower than *hirsutus* Wasm.; darker in colour, without trace of ground sculpture; the elytra at the suture a third shorter than the thorax, with similar very fine scattered punctures, which, however, are much more sparing on the elytra than in *hirsutus*. The abdomen, as in *hirsutus*, is furnished with long yellow setae, but the fine puncturation and yellow pubescence seen in that species is much more sparing, being limited to the sides of the segments, the middle being glabrous.

NYASALAND: Ngerengere.

**Demera** (s.str.) **henningsi** sp. nov.

Moderately shining, head black, thorax and abdomen light chestnut-red, the latter infuscate before the apex; elytra brownish-yellow. Antennae with the last four or five joints blackish, the rest and the legs reddish-yellow. Length 1.75—2 mm.

In build and in the long black abdominal setae resembling *setosa* Cam. but of brighter colour and with much larger and deeper thoracic impressions. The head much more finely punctured; more shining and more brightly coloured than *subrugosa* Cam. and scarcely as roughly punctured, but with larger and deeper thoracic impressions, suborbicular head and long abdominal setae. Head narrower than the thorax, transversely suborbicular, convex, the eyes about as long as the post-ocular region, finely and closely punctured, finely coriaceous.

Antennae with the third joint a little shorter than the second, fourth small, as long as broad, fifth to tenth gradually more transverse, the penultimate about three times as broad as long, the eleventh as long as the three preceding together. Thorax transverse (3.5 : 2.75), widest behind, the sides gently rounded and retracted towards the rounded anterior angles, the posterior angles distinct, obtusely rounded, along the middle sometimes with trace of a fine impressed line, on each side of the middle in the posterior half broadly and deeply excavated, the posterior margin before the scutellum strongly elevated and thickened, the area in front transversely impressed, moderately closely, moderately finely, roughly punctured, very finely coriaceous. Elytra longer (3.5 : 2.75) and broader (5 : 3.5) than the thorax, widened behind, the sculpture very similar. Abdomen a little narrowed at the base, more so towards apex, finely, moderately closely punctured, rather more closely on the penultimate segments, the first four visible segments each with six long black setae in a transverse row across the middle.

NYASALAND: Ngerengere. With *Anomma nigricans molesta* Gerst.

**Zyras (Homalodonia) henningsi** sp. nov.

Rather shining light reddish-brown, the last three abdominal segments blackish. Antennae with the first joint reddish-yellow, the following reddish. Legs reddish-yellow. Length 5 mm.

Near *kenyae* Bernh., but differently coloured; the antennae very similarly constructed, but with the tenth joint a little shorter; thorax a little longer, both it and the elytra more closely and less finely punctured; the sculpture of the abdomen as in *kenyae*. Head strongly transverse, distinctly broader than the thorax; the eyes very large, occupying nearly the whole side; the front and along the middle narrowly impunctate, elsewhere rather closely covered with small obsolete umbilicate punctures and without ground sculpture. Antennae rather long and stout, the third joint a little longer than the second, fourth to ninth all a little longer than broad and differing but little, the tenth longer than the ninth, the eleventh as long as the ninth and tenth together. Thorax as long as broad, the sides rounded in front, sinuately retracted behind, the posterior angles obtusely rounded, before the scutellum with transverse fovea, the base narrowly beveled and very finely punctured, in some examples with indication of an oblique lateral impression towards the sides; puncturation rather close, fine and asperate; ground sculpture wanting. Elytra a little longer and distinctly broader than the thorax, broader than long, more finely and less closely punctured; ground sculpture absent. Abdomen a little narrowed towards the apex, with sparing asperate punctures furnished with long black setae, the first visible segment only very finely and rather closely punctured; ground sculpture absent; seventh tergite without lateral sulcus; sixth ventral segment produced narrowed and truncate.

NYASALAND: Ngerengere. With *Anomma nigricans molesta* Gerst.

**Zyras (Acrothoraconia) reichenspergeri** sp. nov.

Fore-parts moderately shining; head black, thorax and elytra pitchy-brown; abdomen shining, the first two segments brownish-yellow, the following blackish. Antennae blackish, the first two joints yellowish-brown. Legs reddish-yellow. Length 4 mm.

Near *mutatus* Cam.\* but smaller and narrower, the head much less finely

\* This species was placed in the sub-genus *Grammodonia*, but should be removed to *Acrothoraconia*.

punctured and with much stronger ground sculpture, thorax narrower, more roughly punctured and with distinct ground sculpture. Head transverse, as broad as the thorax, the eyes very large, moderately closely punctured except along the middle and in front, the punctures superficial and somewhat umbilicate, the ground sculpture distinct and coriaceous. Antennae long and rather stout, extending to the posterior margin of the elytra, the third joint longer than the second, fourth to tenth all longer than broad, decreasing in length, the penultimate only slightly longer than broad, the eleventh as long as the ninth and tenth together. Thorax transverse (6.5 : 5), the sides gently rounded in front, straighter and more retracted behind, the posterior angles obtuse; along the base and sides almost to the anterior angles with a sharp keel, so that a narrow bevelled surface is formed between it and the margins; before the scutellum with a fovea, along the sides obliquely and strongly impressed, puncturation rather close, moderately fine and rough, distinctly coriaceous; the bevelled edges much more finely punctured. Elytra slightly longer and distinctly broader than the thorax, transverse, coarsely, closely and roughly punctured. Abdomen a little narrowed towards the apex, the seventh tergite with a lateral sulcus, with a few minute, scarcely perceptible punctures and extremely finely coriaceous ground sculpture, glabrous. Fore parts with a fine, scanty pubescence.

♂. Third tergite with a tubercle in the middle; seventh with a sharper tubercle in the middle and some small granules along the posterior border; eighth truncate, finely denticulate, the surface closely covered with small granules.

NYASALAND: Ngerengere. With *Anomma nigricans molesta* Gerst.

The types of all these species are in the collection of Dr. Reichenspergeri and paratypes in my own.

15 Teesdale Road,

Leytonstone, London, E.11.

January 16th, 1939.

*An unusual association of Apions.*—On the afternoon of the 9th September last, when walking down to Chingford from High Beach through the fields which border Epping Forest, the weather being rather chilly, with a grey sky and cold wind, I noticed in one of them some large patches of thistles. Happening to be in want of a few fresh specimens of the common thistle Apion, *A. carduorum*, I set to work to beat them over paper (having no net with me), but without result till I reached the hedge separating the field from an adjoining one, where a few very stunted and straggly ones were growing amongst brambles and nettles under the shelter of the hedge. Beating these produced some very unexpected results, as several specimens of *A. spencei*, a species I had been looking for unsuccessfully for forty years, turned up, together with a few each of *A. unicolor*, *A. trifolii* and *A. humile*, but curiously neither of the two species usually found on thistles, *A. carduorum* and *onopordi*, put in an appearance. Some of the *spencei* turned out to be damaged, and wishing to get some more of it I paid two further visits to the spot, on September 13th (a very hot day) and October 11th (after a period of wet weather), finding Apions present on each occasion; and altogether from these few thistles under the hedge I obtained twenty-one *A. spencei*, fourteen *unicolor* (all ♀'s but two), one *ervi*, two *assimile*, three or four *trifolii*, one *nigritarse* and six

*humile*, together with (on the later visits) a few *carduorum* and a single *onopordi*, nine species in all. The large patches of thistles out in the field produced nothing on any of the visits, nor did the surrounding herbage under the hedge.

As Coleopterists are aware, *A. spencei*, *unicolor* and *ervi* live normally on species of *Vicia* and *Lathyrus*, the three red-legged species on clover and *humile* usually in grassy places where sorrel is growing. While there is plenty of the latter in the surrounding district, the other plants, especially vetches, are decidedly scarce; there are a few small scattered plants of *Lathyrus* growing annually amongst grass in an adjoining field, but they have never produced anything, nor have some small patches of another species of vetch in a lane about half a mile away. At present, therefore, it is rather a mystery to me where such an assemblage could have come from, but further investigations next summer may throw some light on this point, and in the meantime I have thought the incident worth recording.—F. B. JENNINGS, 152 Silver Street, Upper Edmonton, N.18: January 4th, 1939.

*British Museum (Natural History), Department of Entomology: a suggestion to students.*—As an unofficial worker of some years' standing in the Entomological Department at the British Museum (Natural History), South Kensington, I feel that the attractions of this work deserve to be better known than they are to keen students of insects.

The entomological collections at South Kensington are now so large that the members of the regular staff can deal only with a comparatively small part of the material at their disposal, and many families of insects are perforce quite unworked. There are unlimited opportunities here for entomologists who have leisure time at their disposal, who are interested in the classification of insects and would be prepared to specialise in one family or even genus of insects, to do extremely useful work.

The first few months might prove not very encouraging, as they would have to be devoted to obtaining an outline of the group and of its literature and to the incorporation of accessions into the collection. The worker would have to be prepared to accept criticism and patiently to acquire at the same time a knowledge of Museum routine methods. He or she will, however, be doing useful work from the start, discounted only by the amount of help and supervision required from the regular staff during the initial stages.

In a period of time, which will vary with the individual and the group studied, a stage will be reached when serious scientific work can be attempted, and, with the unmatched facilities provided by the collections and library in the Museum, such work is of absorbing interest. If the group chosen has been little studied in the past, as is the case with so very many, and not too large, a keen and suitable worker will quickly find him or herself regarded as the recognised specialist on that group, after which, with a tiny section of the national collection virtually in his or her own charge, many happy hours may be anticipated. It must be pointed out, however, that such employment carries little or no financial benefit, and is possible only for those with some private means or who have retired from business. Any reader, resident in the London area, who feels that he or she might now, or in the future, be available for such work should make further enquiries from the Keeper of the Department.

[Though the staff of the Department is glad to welcome help of the kind suggested, I should like to make it clear that this paragraph has been in no way inspired by the Department.—K. G. BLAIR, Deputy Keeper.]

Recently brought forward as British by Davies, who took it plentifully in N. Wales in soil from under stones and moss at 2,000 to 3,400 ft. Recorded by the writer from near the summit of Cheviot at about 2,500 ft. (v.13) and from the Pentlands at 1,000 to 1,250 ft. (coll. Kendall).

**Tetracanthella kendalli** sp.n. (Figs. 4 & 5).

Length 0.8—1.0 mm. Ground colour lemon-yellow, mottled or flecked with pale blue (underside) to dark blackish-blue; eyespots black; antennae of a uniform purplish blue, legs greyish, end of abdomen brownish-yellow. Antenna slightly shorter than dorsal length of head, relative lengths of segments 7:12:11:22. Legs somewhat stout, foot about as long as the posterior AH and 0.6 the length of the tibiotarsus; empodial appendage narrowed to a point, from 0.3 to 0.5 the length of the inner margin of claw; hind pair at least with a single long seta (tenent hair) at hind margin (Fig. 4). Furca reduced, short and stout, without mucro; mucrodens at least 0.6 the length of the manubrium, furnished with two setae (Fig. 5). Posterior or major AH slender, slightly curved, about three times as long as their lateral breadth, just before base, and slightly longer than the hind margin of papilla supporting them; inferior AH almost straight, c. 0.75 the length of the superior.

SCOTLAND, Boghall, Pentlands, in soil, iv.31. Kendall coll., No. PA 8.

Genus *Uzelia* Absolon 1901.

=*Protanurophorus* (Wom. & Bagn.) in Womersley, 1925, Ent. Mo. Mag., LXI, p. 251.

*Uzelia setifera* Absolon.

1901, Zool. Anz., 24, p. 209; *Protanurophorus pearmani* Womersley, 1925, l.c., p. 251.

There is little doubt as to the accuracy of the above synonymy.

***Uzelia setifera coniferarum*** nov.

I have taken a form of *Uzelia* that comes close to *setifera* but differs in its substantially longer AH as compared with the length of claw.

The AH are comparatively long and slender, and c. 0.4 the length of the claw compared with 0.2 to 0.25 in *setifera*. The foot is as in *setifera*, but the empodium would appear to be produced into a more pronounced hump in place of appendage. The thoracic segments ii—iii and intermediate abdominal segments are each furnished with a pair of long, strong lateral bristles, as long as or about as long as the median length of Abd. IV, but I find that these are present in Womersley's specimens, and were overlooked in his description.

This form also differs in its habitat, my examples being found exclusively on conifers in mountainous regions. SWITZERLAND, Zurich, on *Abies*, summit of the Utelieberg (2,800 ft.), vii.25;

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