

XVIII. — A NEW HEPIALID FROM SUMATRA.

BY R. VAN EECKE. — (WITH PLATE X).

The Leiden Museum of Natural History has received a gigantic Hepialid, sent over by Mr. P. O. Stolz from Soerian (distr. Alahan Pandjang, W. Sum.). As far as I can find in literature, it was till now unknown that in Sumatra such insects are living. In the East-Indian Archipelago *Hepialidae* are known from Borneo, Java and Amboina, from the Aroe islands and from New-Guinea. Java is inhabited by representatives of three genera: *Palpifer* Hamps., *Hepialiscus* Hamps. and *Phassus* Moore. Their species are not numerous. Mr. P. C. T. Snellen recorded in the „Tijdschrift voor Entomologie”, vol. XLIII, pp. 29—33 the following species: *Palpifer sordida* Snell., *Hepialiscus marcidus* Butl., *Phassus damor* Moore and *Phassus signifer* Walk. From Borneo is only known *Phassus signifer* Walk.; from Amboina are recorded *Hepialus rosatus* Pag. and *Hepialus tegulatus* Pag. On the Aroe islands *Casana trichiloides* Walk. has been captured. No sooner had we come into New-Guinea, than the number of the *Hepialidae* begins to rise, till we have reached the Australian regions, where the maximum of species is to be found. These communications are drawn from the „Lepidopterorum Catalogus” by Aurivillius and Wagner, part 4, 1911.

Returning to the *Hepialidae* from Sumatra I must mention moreover two specimens of *Phassus damor* Moore in the collection of Messrs. Pieters and Snellen. For the determination of these species I have used: List Spec. Lep. Ins. Coll. Brit. Mus. by F. Walker, 1856; Cat. Lep. Ins. Mus. E. I. C. by Th. Horsfield and Moore, 1858—1859; Faun. Brit. Ind. by G. F. Hampson, 1892, and the above cited memoir by Mr. Snellen. Judging from these works the specimen collected by Mr. Stolz must belong to a new species, which I propose to name:

Phassus niger mihi.

♂. Exp. alar. 140 mm. Head, thorax, abdomen and ground-colour of the wings very dark red-brown, nearly black on the discal part of the hind wings. Fore wing with a yellowish white mark in the cell at the upper end and along the upper discocellularis. At a distance of 10 mm. from the outer margin and parallel with it, an undulated series of very small yellowish spots may be observed, which spots are irregularly placed between the nervules from the apex to the end of vein 2. The anal part of the fore wing and two vertical cross-bands are polished and seem to

be silvery. Between all the nervules of the fore wings are very dark brown curved lines or markings.

Above vein 2 of the fore wings are also some small yellowish specks, one near to the base and three round the end of the cell. Moreover some yellow specks are visible under vein 2 near to the margin of the fore wings. The hind wings without markings.

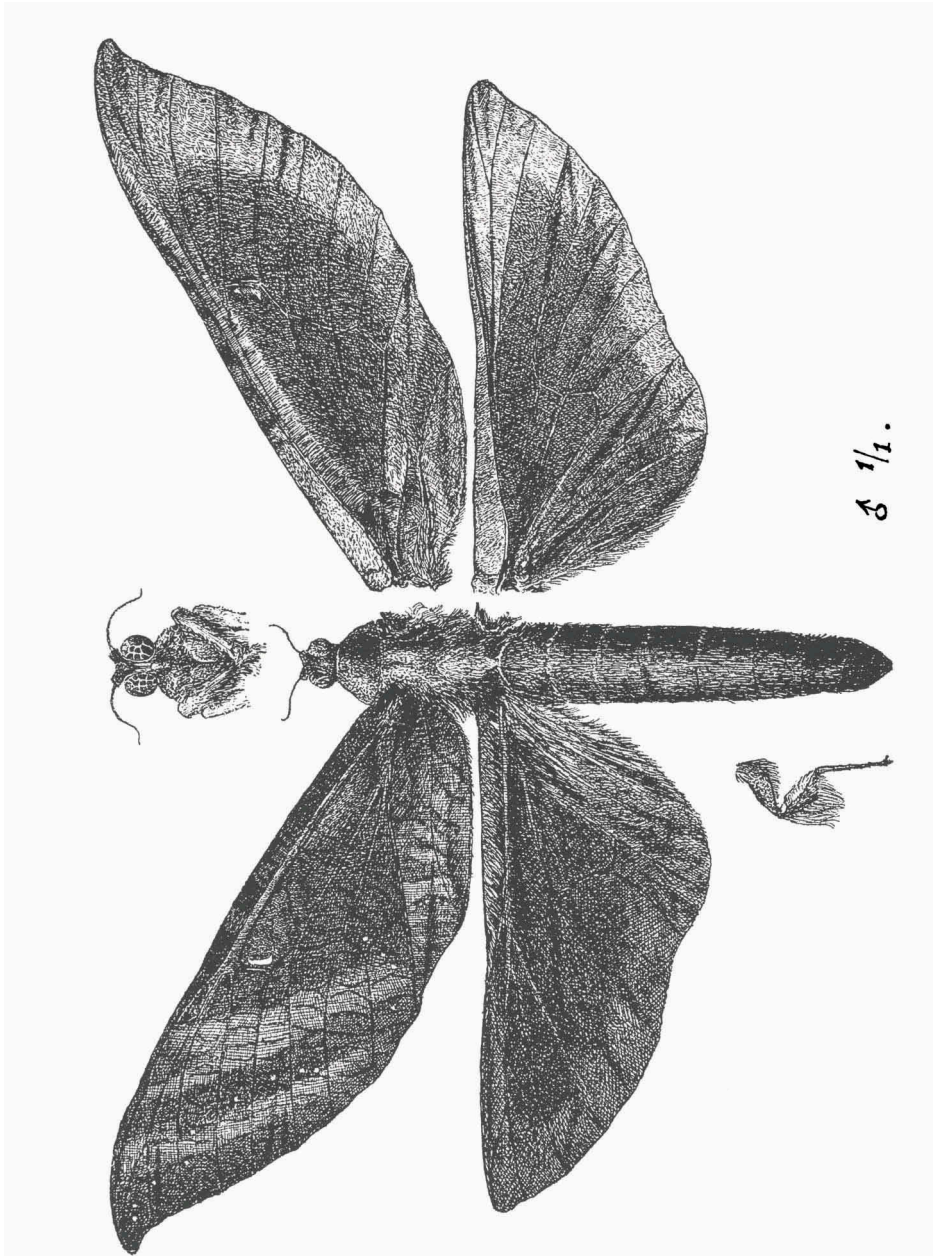
On the underside the margins of the wings are yellowish brown coloured, the remaining part being black. The femora and tibiae of the hind legs bear long yellow bristles. For the sake of clearness I have sketched this very remarkable insect (plate X).

Phassus niger must be closely related to *Phassus purpurascens* Moore from Ceylon and to *Phassus signifer* Walk. from Sylhet, Burma, Borneo and Java. It may be possible, that *niger* is only a Sumatran race of *signifer*, but I think that the differences, also in the shape of the wings, are too great.

Leiden, 16 November 1915.

CORRIGENDA.

- p. 2 staat: *Scalisetotorus*, lees: *Scalisetosus*.
" 45 " *Pyrames*, lees: *Pyrameis*.
" 82 " *Psettus evansi*, lees: *Psettodes erumei*.
" 90 " *Psettus erumei* und *evansi*, lees: *Psettodus erumei*.
-



R. v. E. ad nat. del.

Phassus niger nov. spec. from Sumatra.