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Genus *Pseudorichardia* Hendel (Diptera, Otitidae)

By GEORGE C. STEYSKAL -
GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN

Two factors prompt this review of the genus *Pseudorichardia*, the collection of a new species in the New Hebrides by Jean L. Laffoon and the discovery that a male of *P. interrupta* Bezzi showed that form to be amply worthy of specific distinction. *Pseudorichardia*, which is now known from the New Hebrides to the Marquesas, is apparently restricted in distribution to the Oceanic islands.

Pseudorichardia may be recognized among other members of the subfamily Platystominae by the hind femora, which are stouter than the other pairs and armed with stout bristles in two rows below.

Genus *Pseudorichardia* Hendel

Pseudorichardia Hendel, Genera Insectorum 113:21, 1911 (generi-type, *Richardia flavitarsis* Macquart, monobasic).

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF PSEUDORICHARDIA

- 1 (4). Fore femora blue; wings with one or two medial spots.
- 2 (3). Wings with large spot extending from base of discal cell to anterior cross vein; arista of male simple; female with last two abdominal tergites approximately as long as wide and with anal cell of wing bare.....*P. flavitarsis* (Macquart).
- 3 (2). Wings with arcuate dark band at base of discal cell well separated from spot over anterior cross vein; arista of male with apical lamina.....*P. interrupta* Bezzi.
- 4 (1). Fore femora yellow; wings with two medial spots or wholly lacking maculation.
- 5 (6). Legs wholly pale; wings unspotted; male arista with apical lamina.....*P. aristalis* Bezzi.
- 6 (5). Fore femora yellowish, legs otherwise largely blue; wings with two medial maculations; male arista simple; female with last

two abdominal tergites much broader than long and with anal cell of wing with longish hairs on dorsal side.....
.....*P. bezziana*, new species.

Pseudorichardia aristalis Bezzi, Diptera Brachycera and Athericera of the Fiji Islands, 93, fig. 27, 1928.

Described from a single male each, Natova, April 1918, and Nausori, October 1920, and apparently not taken subsequently.

Pseudorichardia bezziana, new species.

Male and female. Length of body, 5-7 mm.; length of wing, 5-6.4 mm.

Head largely brown, dark matt brown on front, shining black on upper back of head. Proboscis, base of palpi, antennal grooves, and upper side of third antennal segment blackish. Lateral and lower back of head, the larger part of the antennal grooves, and the narrow but very distinct parafacials and parafrontals, pale gray pruinose. One pair of upper orbital, one pair each of inner and outer vertical, and a small pair of ocellar bristles. One mid-postocular and one genal bristle strongly developed. Palpi with several short black bristles. Frons and lower back of head with abundant, rather long, whitish hair. Arista blackish, simple in both sexes, short pubescent on basal fourth or less. Frons approximately 1.5 times as long as wide.

Thorax and abdomen metallic blue-black with purplish and greenish reflections. Vestiture and chaetotaxy as in *P. aristalis*. Squamae small but well-developed, whitish, the upper ones with brown rim, the lower with pale yellowish rim. Halteres with yellow stem and black knob. Abdominal hairs largely erect and whitish, but in middle of third tergite of female an extensive area is covered with decumbent black hairs. Female fourth and fifth tergites much broader than long, as broad as preceding tergites.

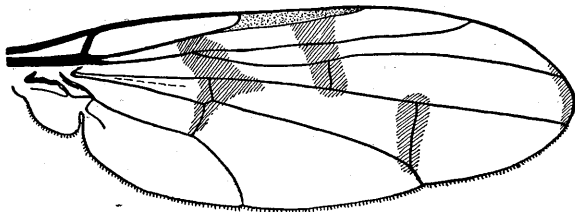


FIGURE 1.—Wing of *Pseudorichardia bezziana*. Broken line in basal cell indicates a deep fold.

Legs of form and armature of *P. aristalis*; all coxae blackish; all trochanters yellowish; fore and middle femora yellowish with brown stain antero-ventrally in apical half, hind femora blackish except yellow basal third and knees; fore tibiae dark brown, middle tibiae yellowish, hind tibiae black; all tarsi pale yellow on basal two segments, the remainder brown to black.

Wings nearly as figured in original description of *P. interrupta*, but anterior cross vein more perpendicular, placed at angle of 70-80 degrees with preceding section of fourth vein and meeting fourth vein at 0.62 from base of discal cell. Dark mark at base of discal cell shaped very similarly to that of *P. interrupta* and sometimes extends on fourth vein halfway to anterior cross vein, the mark

over which extends anteriorly to or almost to pterostigma near its apical extremity. Strong infuscation surrounds posterior cross vein, and there is a distinct smokiness at wing tip. Anal and first basal cell of female furnished with rather long hairs dorsally except in portions of base and apex of anal cell; indeed all hairs of female wing basad of maculation are considerably longer than usual. Anal and first basal cells of male hyaline and bare, except at extreme apex. First and third veins of both sexes strongly setose throughout.

New Hebrides, Espiritu Santo: Holotype and allotype, Second Channel, May 1944, numbers 89 and 90, respectively, collected by Jean L. Laffoon and deposited in Bernice P. Bishop Museum. Paratypes, same data as for holotype, April 16 to August 1944, various notebook numbers, seven males and 16 females, in the collections of Bishop Museum, United States National Museum, Jean L. Laffoon, and the author. Two female paratypes, Turtle Bay, December 20, 1943, and January 7, 1944, also collected by Jean L. Laffoon, in Bishop Museum.

This species may easily be separated as shown in the key. It is difficult to say to which of this closely related circle it has the most affinity until something is learned of the female characters of *P. aristalis* and *P. interrupta*.

***Pseudorichardia flavitarsis* (Macquart).**

Richardia flavitarsis Macquart, Dipt. exot., Suppl. 5: 121, pl. 7, fig. 3, 1858 (Marquesas Islands).

Pseudorichardia flavitarsis (Macquart) Hendel, Genera Insectorum 113: 21, 1911; 157: 123, pl. 11, fig. 200, 1914; Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, Abhandl. 8 (1): 267, 1914.—Bezzi, Diptera Brachycera and Athericera of the Fiji Islands, 92, 1928 (Fiji, Rarotonga; "bred from oranges").—Malloch, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. X, 4: 100, 1929 (Moorea, Society Islands); Insects of Samoa 6 (5): 222, 1930 (several localities in Samoa); B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 98: 206, 1932 (Hivaoa, Marquesas).

Richardia angulata Thomson, Eugenes Resa, Dipt., 576, 1868 (Tahiti).

I have examined material in the United States National Museum from Fiji (Ovalau and Nukulau) and Samoa (Tutuila), the latter mistakenly determined by Malloch as var. *interrupta*. Malloch (B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 98: 206, 1932) states that he does not believe the varietal name necessary, and it is possible that he includes what I am considering a distinct species among material he determines as *P. flavitarsis*. I have also examined Bishop Museum material from the

following Fijian localities: Matuku Island, Moala Island, Thikombia, Vanua Mbalavu, Wakaya Island, and Lau (Aiwa, Fulanga, Komo, Mango, Oneata, Tavunasithi). I find little variation in the material examined.

***Pseudorichardia interrupta* Bezzi (new status).**

Pseudorichardia flavitarsis Macquart var. *interrupta* Bezzi, *Diptera Brachycera and Athericera of the Fiji Islands*, 92, fig. 26, 1928 (females, Loloti and Lautoka Mts.).

Although I have not seen female specimens, a male in the United States National Museum labeled "Ovalau, Fiji, June (Simmonds)" agrees so well with Bezzi's description and the excellent figure of the wing by Terzi which accompanies it that I have identified the male with Bezzi's form. This specimen shows a distinct apical arisal lamina which I have not seen in any male *P. flavitarsis*.

It may be remarked that at least one of Bezzi's specimens, that taken in the Lautoka Mountains, was apparently collected at some elevation. Moreover, Ovalau Island seems to have some elevation.

Further collecting in Oceania should yield additional material in this interesting genus that may provide data of zoogeographical significance.