A NEW GENUS OF AUSTRALIAN *CIXIIDAE* (HOMOPTERA).

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(*Communicated by H. J. Carter, B.A., F.E.S.*)

[Read 26th April, 1922.]

BATHYMERIA, n. gen.

Closely allied to *Leptoclamys* Kirk. but the great development of the front legs distinguishes it. Vertex about twice as broad as long, with a transverse carina about middle, a transverse carina divides vertex from frons; base very shallowly emarginate, except in the middle, where there is a minute angular emargination; apex truncate, not produced beyond eyes. Length of *middle* of face equal to width, widest slightly beyond middle, sides slightly curved, apical half more so than basal, apex of face deeply and roundly concave thus making the sides longer than middle, marginal carinae distinct, median carina somewhat obscure, no median ocellus but the median carina obsolete at apex. In side view base of clypeus rounded, slightly produced, distinctly tricarinate. Antennae globose. Pronotum fairly long, hind margin deeply and angularly emarginate with a carina margining the middle half; no lateral carinae but a slight groove runs from the anterior margin behind eye in a circle nearly touching the hind margin, the area within this groove being slightly swollen. Mesonotum slightly flattened in middle, tricarinate. Front legs considerably thickened, femora slightly excavate along the ventral surface with small spines along each margin; tibiae slightly excavate along dorsal surface with spines around apex. This arrangement allows the tibiae to be laid close to the femora and the tarsi doubled back upon the tibiae, as is often found in subterraneous insects. Other legs normal; hind tibiae without spines. Ovipositor short, complete; the surface of female pygofer forming a wax-secreting surface; female abdomen fairly full but decidedly compressed horizontally. Male pygofer of the normal Cixiid type, abdomen compressed horizontally. Tegmina of the Cixiid type, subtectiform, claval veins joining about middle of clavus, entering hind margin before apex, Sc and R forking at same level as Cu slightly beyond middle of clavus; R with three apical veins; first fork of M slightly before apex of clavus, five apical veins, M_1, M_{1+2}, M_2, M_3 and M_4.

Type, *B. helmsi* Muir.

BATHYMERIA HELMSI, n.sp.

♂. Length 4.4 mm.; tegmen 5.6 mm.

Dark brown or nearly black over head and thorax, carinae lighter, also the raised area on pronotum, front and middle tibiae and tarsi and the hind legs

lighter; abdomen light brown. Tegmina and wings hyaline, vitreous, veins dark brown; tubercles sparse, more numerous on apical veins, bearing small black macrotrichia; a brown stigmal mark. Ventral margin of pygofer angularly produced, lateral margins slightly curved; anal segment of moderate size, rounded at apex; genital styles Y-shaped, the inner arm being small and the outer curved.

♀. Length 6.4 mm.; tegmen 8.6 mm.

Lighter than the male. Full view of pygofer a little longer than wide, sides fairly deep, ovipositor slightly curved upward, not reaching the anal segment which is short and slightly flattened horizontally.

Described from one male from Sydney, N.S.W., and five females, one unlabelled, one from National Park (December, 1905) and three from Sydney, N.S.W. These specimens are in Dr. Helms' collection, now in the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, T.H. One Paratype in Australian Museum Collection, No. K45294.

The interest attached to this insect is that the front legs are developed abnormally for the family and indicate that the nymph is likely to be subterraneous in its habits. Information on this point would be of interest and local collectors should endeavour to settle this point.