

A NEW AFRICAN LOUSEFLY: *RAYMONDIA HARDYI* SP. N.  
(STREBLIDAE, PUIPIPARA).

O. G. H. FIEDLER, Onderstepoort Laboratory.

The flies belonging to the genus *Raymondia* are parasitic upon bats. Six different species have so far been described from Africa and Asia, two of which were recorded by Bedford (1932) as occurring in the southern part of Africa, i.e. *R. bedfordi* Ferris and *R. huberi* Frauenfeld.

Several *Raymondia* specimens (3 females and 5 males) which had been handed in recently for identification, did not conform with any of the species on record and are described, therefore, as belonging to a new species, since they reveal certain distinct and constant characters. The flies were collected by Mr. D. S. Hardy off a Cape Leaf-nosed Bat (*Hipposideros caffer caffer* Sund.) at Rosslyn, District Pretoria, Transvaal, on 10.1.1953.

The new form is given the name of *Raymondia hardyi* sp. n. The types are in the entomological collection of Onderstepoort. This species is the first one of this genus to show sexual dimorphism, in so far that the structure of the setae on the dorsum of the abdomen is different in the two sexes.

*Female*—Length on slide 1.6—1.9 mm. (Fig. A).

Head is rounded when viewed dorsally and narrower than the anterior part of the thorax, subregions of the vertex distinct. Latero-vertices with several comparatively small but stout setae along the inner aspects and very strong and long bristles in the posterior and postero-lateral parts. Two longish but fine setae on the posterior margin of the vertex. Ventrally a row of very long setae on the postgenae runs parallel to the posterior margin of the head. Setae on the anterior parts of the postgenae are shorter (Fig. D). Palps as broad as long with truncated anterior margin and one rather long bristle. Theca of the labium broader than long with two fine setae on the posterior margin and a row of short bristles along the anterior edge. The theca and the membrane that separates the postgenae (stippled in figure) together form an oval.

Thorax is rounded, the mesonotal suture incomplete in the middle. Humeral processes rather small with two long and several short setae. Prescutum covered with fairly short but stout setae; a row of long and strong bristles along the lateral margin, continuing on the scutum. Scutellum broadly rounded with two very long setae medially. A row of about eight short setae along the posterior margin and two similar setae laterally closer to the anterior margin. Sternopleura fully covered with setae as in *R. planiceps* Jobling. Legs presenting no distinctive characters.

Wings (Fig. C) are 1.7 mm. long and 0.8 mm. wide. The alula is absent. Humeral vein with only one seta. There are no setae in the costal cell. Middle of subcostal cell with one or no seta. Marginal and submarginal cell possess short setae in their distal parts. Calypter on shaped like a banana.

A NEW AFRICAN LOUSEFLY.

The anterior tergite-like portion of the abdomen has a slightly sinuated edge between the lateral lobes. These lobes bear several very strong setae up to 0.4 mm. in length. The two characteristic longitudinal rows of setae on the dorsum of the abdomen consist of two different types of bristles, very short but stout anteriorly, and very strong and long in the posterior part where they are directed postero-laterally. The abdominal surface between these rows, as also a narrow strip alongside of them is naked. The apical cone bears four long and several short setae. The ventral surface of the abdomen is covered with medium sized setae becoming gradually shorter towards the lateral and anterior parts. The abdomen immediately in front of the apical cone bears six setae arranged in a semi-circle which is open towards the posterior end.

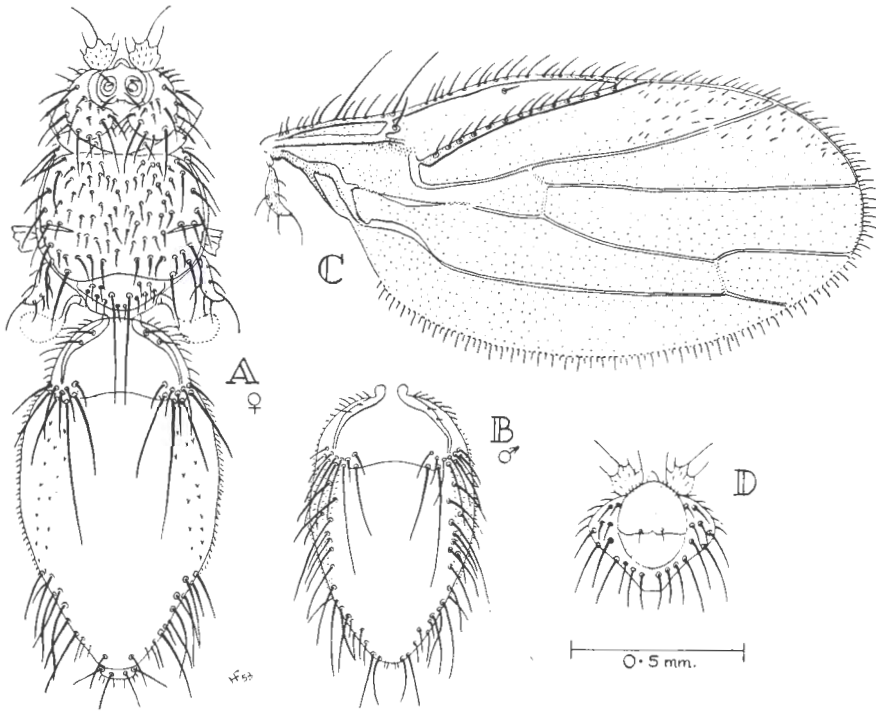


FIG. A.—*Raymondia hardyi* sp.n., female, dorsal view.

FIG. B.—Abdomen of male, dorsal view.

FIG. C.—Wing.

FIG. D.—Ventral view of head.

*Male*—Length on slide 1.5 mm. It resembles the female in many respects, except in the bristles on the dorsal surface of the abdomen (Fig. B). All the setae of the two longitudinal rows are very strong and long. The short setae that cover the ventral surface of the abdomen extend on to the dorsum up to the double rows of strong setae. The subcostal cell of the wings shows the presence of one to three setae.

*Raymondia hardi* sp. n. differs from *R. bedfordi* Ferris (1930) and *R. huberi* Frauenfeld Jobling (1930) in the following prominent characters:

The basal lobe or alula of the wing is lacking entirely. The two main setae in the middle of the scutellum are extremely long and reach the posterior margin of the tergite-like portion of the abdomen or extend beyond it. The arrangement and structure of setae on the dorsum of the abdomen are different and account for the marked sexual dimorphism. The setae on the abdominal lobes are longer than in either of the other species.

REFERENCES.

- BEDFORD, G. A. H. (1932). A Synoptic Check-List and Host-List of the Ectoparasites found on South African Mammalia, Aves, and Reptilia. *18th Rep. Dir. Vet. Serv. Anim. Ind., Union S.A.*, p. 223.
- FERRIS, G. F. (1930). Some African Diptera Pupipara. *Parasitology*, Vol. 22, No. 3, p. 275.
- JOBLING, B. (1930). A Revision of the Genus *Raymondia* Frauenfeld (Dipt. Pupip., Streblidae). *Parasitology*, Vol. 22, No. 3, p. 283.