

later to have been well founded, it is clear to me that no acknowledgment is due. In the present case I am the more disinclined to make any mention of Dr. Smith in the matter, even to state that he expressed a favorable prognosis, because he was injected into a situation which I considered well in hand, quite without my previous knowledge or desire.

Dr. Smith states that all the information about *Mansonia perturbans* comes from himself or his assistant, Mr. Grossbeck. This is a most disingenuous statement. I happen to know that Mr. Brakeley made all the discoveries in the case and sent his voluminous notes freely to Dr. Smith, and I am astonished that Dr. Smith should attempt to divert credit to himself from a most generous and warm-hearted, if non-publishing, friend. For myself, who am neither generous, nor, I fear, at present particularly friendly toward Dr. Smith, the attempt to annex credit is explicable on the ground that Dr. Smith's point of view is too self-centered to allow him to read the situation in its true aspect.

### Note on the Genus *Phalaccus* Stal. C

By Dr. E. BERGROTH, Fitchburg, Mass.

In 1773 De Geer described and figured a large and remarkable Pentatomid from Surinam under the name *Cimex pustulatus*. Overlooking De Geer's description Stål described in 1855 a specimen of the same insect from an unknown locality under the name *Macropygium flavopustulatum*. Later, in 1862, he found that the species has only a superficial resemblance to the genus *Macropygium* and founded the new genus *Phalaccus* upon it, identifying it with De Geer's species. In 1872 he published some additional characters of the genus, among others "tarsi biarticulati?" This note of interrogation seems to indicate that his specimen was in poor condition, for the tarsi are really only two-jointed and very distinctly so. Up to the present date no more specimens of this rare insect had turned up, but in 1880 Distant described and figured from Central America what he considered a new species of *Phalac-*

*cus*, naming it *Ph. decoratus*. Having recently received a specimen of *Ph. pustulatus* De G. from French Guiana and, through the kindness of Mr. Distant, a cotype of his *Ph. decoratus*, I find that there is neither affinity nor resemblance between these two species which belong to widely different genera. Although Distant speaks of "the elevated meso and metasternum," neither of these sterna is elevated in *decoratus*. What Distant has taken for the meso- and metasternum is the basally depressed basal spine of the venter. It will not be out of place to give complete and more accurate data about these two genera.

#### ✓ PHALACCUS Stal.

Body broadly oval. Head small, distinctly narrower than apex of pronotum, sub-rhomboidal, a little exerted and broader than long, eyes not touching pronotum, postocular and antocular part of equal length, lateral margins before the eyes slightly and broadly sinuate, juga longer than tylus, approaching but not quite meeting in front, blunt at apex, ocelli somewhat more distant from each other than from eyes, bucculae, nearly reaching base of head, first antennal joint passing apex of head by about two-thirds its length and nearly as long as second joint, third joint longer than second and shorter than fourth, which is as long as fifth, rostrum reaching middle coxae, first joint reaching base of head, second joint a little shorter than third and fourth combined, fourth shorter than third. Pronotum about three and one-half times broader than head, deeply sinuate at apex with a short transverse impression on either side behind the apical margin, which is not raised, lateral margins narrowly reflexed, very feebly rounded, lateral angles rounded, scarcely prominent. Frena reaching beyond middle of scutellum. Prosternum longitudinally fore coxae. Metasternum sexangularly elevated in the middle, the elevated part tapering from base to apex and reaching the fore coxae. Metasternum sexangularly elevated in the middle, the elevated part broadly emarginate behind for the reception of the ventral basal tubercle. Orificial sulcus straight, rather long, its anterior margin thickened. Hemelytra with the cost-

tal margin of corium strongly and acutely reflexed towards the base, apical margin straight, apical angle narrowly rounded, membrane with few veins. Abdomen much broader than hemelytra, almost the whole connexivum not covered by the hemelytra, the apical angles of the segments subrectangularly prominent, second ventral segment with a broad, flattened tubercle filling the posterior sinus of the metasternum, spiracula more distant from the lateral margin of the segments than from the apical margin. Tibiæ sulcated above. Tarsi two-jointed.

✓ *Phalaeus pustulatus* DeG.

Shining, glabrous, above dark-ferruginous, beneath luteous, base of head and juga (except interior margin) yellow, pronotum with nineteen yellow spots arranged in three transverse rows, first row with 4, second row with 6, and third row with 9 spots, those of the third row more elongate and irregular, scutellum with 5 elongate basal spots, an irregularly v-shaped median marking, a lateral spot at the middle, and the apex yellow, corium with about 6 larger and several smaller yellow spots, connexival segments with a large median quadrate yellow spot, a duplicate spot at the base of the fore and middle acetabula, a single spot at the base of the hind acetabula, and spiracula black, ventral segments with an irregularly and diffusely infuscated sublateral transverse patch inside the spiracula, antennae, rostrum and legs luteous, apex of second antennal joint, less than apical half of third joint, more than apical half of fourth joint, and apical half of fifth joint black. Head impunctate, juga transversely wrinkled, antennae shortly pilose. Pronotum, scutellum and corium rather sparingly punctured, the yellow spots impunctate. Underside smooth, except prosternum which is finely and sparsely punctured. Legs shortly setose. Length, ♀ 16 mm., width 10 mm.

*DISDERIA* n. g.

Body oblong-obovate. Head immersed to the eyes, one-third broader than its length, scarcely narrower than apex of pronotum, strongly sinuate before the eyes, rounded at apex, antocular part twice longer than postocular part, juga longer than tylus and narrowly meeting in front of it, ocelli more than twice wider apart from each other than from eyes, bucculae almost reaching base of head, rostrum reaching middle coxæ, first joint reaching base of head, second joint as long as third and fourth combined, fourth shorter than third,

base of antennæ visible from above, their first joint reaching a little beyond apex of head, third joint much shorter than second, fourth joint longer than second and shorter than fifth. Pronotum a little more than twice broader than head, moderately sinuate at apex, apical margin scarcely elevated, but with a series of punctures immediately behind it, lateral margins reflexed in the middle only, straight, lateral angles a little prominent. Scutellum with the apical part moderately broad, frena reaching beyond the middle. Prosternum on either side behind the apical margin with a transverse carina, the inner end of which is recurved. Neither mesosternum nor metasternum elevated. Orificial keel long, straight, gradually tapering towards the end. Hemelytra with the costal margin scarcely elevated towards the base, exocorium with a double row of punctures except towards the base where there is but a single row, apical margin slightly rounded, apical angle acute, membrane with numerous veins. Abdomen a little broader than hemelytra, the apical angles of the segments with a short acute spine, second ventral segment with a strong spine reaching the fore coxæ, the basal part of the spine depressed and subexcavated, the apical part laminately compressed, spiracula about equally distant from apical and lateral margin. Tibiæ not sulcated above. Tarsi three-jointed.

Type.—*Phalaeus decoratus* Dist.

This genus is not closely allied to any of the other American genera having a basal spine to the venter. The *facies* is that of a *Mormidea*. The genus is named in memory of S. Disderi, whose biological "Observationes entomologicae" (1805-1809) on *Hemiptera* and other insects have fallen into undeserved oblivion.

✓ *Disderia decorata* Dist.

Head, pronotum, scutellum and breast irregularly rather thinly punctured. Corium more thickly and regularly punctured. Venter smooth, the blackish sublateral band with strong scattered punctures. The first three antennal joints and the femora and tibiae dotted with brown. Connexivum yellow, the basal and apical segmental margins black. Male genital segment short, broad, arcuately sinuate.