

Homoptera

Not to be taken from the laboratory!

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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF CEROPLASTES FROM MEXICO.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL.

In Zoe, Vol. iii, Oct. 1892, Prof. C. H. Tyler Townsend describes, without naming, a Ceroplastes found by Dr. A. Dugès at Guanajuato, Mexico, on Bignonia and Chrysanthemum. Prof. Townsend has now kindly sent me two examples of this Ceroplastes, with the suggestion that if new, the species might be called *C. cistudiformis*. I have adopted this name, while regarding the insect as hardly a distinct species, but rather a subspecies of *C. psidii*, Chavannes, 1848.

CEROPLASTES PSIDII CISTUDIFORMIS, subsp. nov.

Scale: (largest specimen) length $7\frac{1}{4}$ mm., breadth 6 mm., alt. $4\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Color pale grey, with a slightly pink tinge at sides. Each cereous plate with numerous radiating fine blackish lines, and the lateral plates with two not very well-defined concentric lines. Below the nucleus of each lateral and terminal plate, the margin is broadly yellowish-white, without marks; these broadly triangular yellowish-white portions are separated above from the rest of the scale by black bands, which become evanescent towards the nuclei of the plates. The central plate has stronger radiating lines or bands at intervals, giving it the superficial appearance of being divided into several, as is the case in *C. jancirensis* and *psidii*.

The plate-nuclei are small, blackish, with the usual white secretion in the centre. That of the dorsal or central plate is rather large. Inside of the (cereous) scale pale ochreous, the divisions between the plates marked with purplish-brown.

Dorsal plate approximately circular, its posterior half strongly gibbous in both the specimens.

Anterior end with a single plate resembling the adjacent lateral. Each side with two approximately square lateral plates.

Posterior end with a very large broad compound plate, with two distinct nuclei, and an obscure third one between them.

One of the specimens contained the desiccated body of the ♀. The skin (corresponding to the "scale" of a *Lecanium*) is yellow

by transmitted light, with many scattered black (as they appear) gland-dots.

Adult ♀, placed in caustic soda, appears crimson, and stains the liquid.

The legs are very small, red-brown. Tibia about one quarter longer than tarsus. Femur about one-third longer than tibia. Tarsal knobbed hairs well-developed. The claw appears as if bulbous at the tip, but this is certainly due to the large bulbous digitules, as in *psidii*.

Compared with the figure of *C. psidii* given by Signoret, the present subspecies seems very different; but when we come to compare the characters in detail, it is apparent that the differences are those of degree rather than of kind, so that it is hard to accord to the Mexican form more than subspecific rank. *C. psidii* was found at Rio Janeiro, and is probably not to be separated as a species from *C. jancirensis*, Gray, 1828.

The present insect belongs to a group of *Ceroplastes* which is characteristic of the neotropical region, and includes the following species: *C. jamaicensis*, White (Jamaica); *C. cirripediformis*, Comst. (Jamaica, Florida); *C. denudatus*, Ckll., n. sp. (Antigua); *C. depressus*, Ckll., n. sp. (Jamaica); *C. janeirensis*, Gray (Brazil); *C. plumbaginis*, Ckll., n. sp. (Antigua); *C. psidii*, Chav. (Brazil); and perhaps *C. chilensis*, Gray. The three new species mentioned will be described elsewhere.

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