

have paired, but no eggs have ever resulted. I leave the matter exactly where I took it up three summers ago.

ANATOMY.—The subelytral space of *Adesmia* is very large, and one is at first disposed to explain it as a heat insulator, to enable the insect to run about under the blazing desert sun. This ingenious explanation is unsound, for a similar large space is found in *Ocnera philistina* and *Pimelia bajula*, which never expose themselves to sunlight, and a small space also exists in *Tentyria*, which is a strict photophobe. The extremely close fit between the margins of the elytra and the sternite is remarkable: it would appear to hinder the ventilation of the subelytral space into which the spiracles open.

In Palestine only one *Pimelia (angulata)* occurs, so far as I know, on the coastal sand-dunes. In this species the intermediate and posterior tarsi are fringed above and below with long hairs, and in walking the side of the tarsus is applied to the sand, so that both fringes of hair rest upon it and increase the insect's foothold. This structural modification is characteristic of the subgenus *Piesterotarsa*, but whether the other members of this group also live on loose sand I do not know. No other Tenebrionid known to me in Palestine has a fringed foot, and none of them live on the dunes. It would be interesting to know whether this "sand-shoe" is found only in dune dwellers in other countries.

[Mr. Buxton does not allude to the whitish waxy (?) secretion covering some of the desert *Zophosis* spp. ? Certain Pimeliinae seem to have something of the same sort, while others attain a similar effect by whitish scales on the elytra. K. G. B.]

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW NOCTUID FROM NEW ZEALAND.

BY G. V. HUDSON, F.E.S., F.N.Z. INST.

Persectania marmorata, sp. n.

The expansion of the wings of the female is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The fore-wings are rather narrow with the termen moderately oblique, very slightly scalloped; reddish grey; the lines and stigmata outlined in black; the stigmatic, basal and costal region (as far as the second line) heavily suffused with white; the basal line is indicated by two short bars, one on the costa, the other below subcostal vein; first line interrupted, very strongly waved, from $\frac{1}{4}$ of costa to $\frac{3}{8}$ of dorsum; claviform obscure; orbicular small, very elongate, clearly outlined in black; a conspicuous, almost elliptical black marking between orbicular and reniform; reniform large, margined with black except towards costa and dorsum, white, with two small cloudy yellowish-brown marks within; second line strongly dentate, from $\frac{3}{8}$ of costa to near middle of dorsum, a very deep oblique sinuation between veins 1 and 2; subterminal line moderately dentate; beyond subterminal line there is a conspicuous series of partly confluent ochreous spots; a terminal series of small

blackish lunules ; the cilia are red-brown. The hind-wings are very pale ochreous-grey, with a series of very faint terminal lunules ; the cilia are almost white.

The perfect insect appears in February. Described from a single specimen, captured by Mr. J. W. Campbell on Arthur's Pass. I am much indebted to Mr. S. Lindsay for the loan of this unique specimen, now in his collection.

Hillview, Karori, Wellington, N.Z.

October 30th 1923.

PACHYTOMELLA PARALLELA MEY. (HEMIPTERA) AS A BRITISH SPECIES.

BY E. A. BUTLER, B.A., B.SC., F.E.S.

The genus *Pachytomella* has not until now been detected in the British Isles. It is closely allied to *Orthocephalus* Fieb., in which in fact Fieber included it, but contains smaller species. The genus was erected by Costa as *Pachytoma*, but this name, as preoccupied, was altered by Reuter to *Pachytomella*. The head is vertical and very transverse, passing beyond the anterior margin of the pronotum by the whole width of the eye on each side, and so equalling (δ) or even surpassing (η) the posterior margin. The sexes are unlike, the δ being macropterous, long, narrow, and parallel-sided, and the η brachypterous, short and oval, but its hind femora are not so much thickened as in *Orthocephalus*.

Of *P. parallela* the δ only has thus far been taken in Britain. This is a small, narrow, black insect, with hemielytra far exceeding the length of the body, and with the knees slightly yellowish. This latter feature at once distinguishes it from a closely allied species *P. passerinii* Costa, which is entirely black, knees included. The second antennal joint is thickened. The η is brachypterous, the hemielytra being in the form of rounded scales which do not cover the abdomen, and the second antennal joint is not incrassated. Length δ $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. η 2 mm.

P. parallela occurs in middle and southern Europe. I have taken it in Switzerland on conifers, chiefly spruce, I believe. Two specimens have thus far occurred in the British Isles, the first I took in July 1922 at Theydon Bois on the borders of Epping Forest, and the second fell to the lot of Mr. Douglas Bacchus, who took it in August 1923, at Wimborne, Dorset. Both these were taken by promiscuous sweeping. The δ might easily be passed over in the net as the dark form of *Plagiognathus arbustorum*.

35 Kyrle Road, S.W. 11.

November 15th, 1923.