

CORRESPONDENCE.

The "New" Coastal Mosquito.

SIR,—With regard to correspondence concerning the above subject in your last number, I wish to express my thanks to Mr. G. V. Hudson for pointing out the probable synonymy of this species with one described by Hutton as *Opifex fuscus*. This synonymy has since been confirmed by Mr. Edwards, of the British Museum, who was able to compare the types.

It is worthy of note that not only is Hutton's description of *O. fuscus* totally inadequate, but it also contains several inaccuracies, and is placed in a family, the Tipulidae, with which it has no connection. Consequently any attempt to correlate the littoral mosquito with this description would have been, in the absence of Hutton's types or cotypes, to say the least, extremely rash.

In conclusion, I should like to point out that, at a meeting of the Natural History Section of the Wellington Philosophical Society held on the 6th July, 1920, in Mr. Hudson's presence, I gave an illustrated account of the adult and pre-adult stages of this mosquito.

DAVID MILLER.

SIR,—Mr. G. V. Hudson's interesting note, published in the April number of this *Journal*, on the possibility of the species recently described by Mr. Miller, Government Entomologist, proving identical with *Opifex fuscus* Hutton has induced me to record the occurrence of the latter species in the Taranaki District. I have not read Mr. Miller's report on the mosquitoes of New Zealand recently submitted to the Government, nor the description of his new species, which may or may not prove to be *Opifex fuscus*. Three years and a half ago I made a collection of the mosquitoes occurring in this district. In a letter to Mr. Miller three years ago I mentioned that I thought I had collected two new species or forms during that summer. On comparing Hutton's description of *Opifex fuscus* with my specimens they unquestionably belong to this species. I sent a specimen of the second form to the Dominion Museum for identification. It proved to be a large but much darker form of *Culex pervigilans* Bergroth. *Opifex fuscus* is a sun-loving mosquito with a slightly longer proboscis than either of the two endemic species of *Culex*. It is, as Mr. Hudson states, extremely active in its habits, and is very difficult to net. When resting in the sunshine it displays a reddish sheen which distinguishes it from other species of native mosquitoes. *Opifex fuscus* may be collected in the straggling remnant of bush at Barrett's Lagoon (Rotokare), near New Plymouth, during the summer months.

W. W. SMITH.