

L.—A new Genus and Species of Mallophaga (Subfamily Esthiopterinae) from a Petrel. By GORDON B. THOMPSON.

BEDFORDIELLA, gen. nov.

Generic characters.—Form with clypeus and clypeal suture distinct, former much as in *Philoceanus*, but without gutta or lateral grooves; anterior bands thick, narrowing towards mid-line, which they do not reach; no internal bands; ventral bands indicated anteriorly; occipital and ocular blotches and bases of antennal bands large, as in *Pseudonirmus*.

Genotype.—*Bedfordiella unica*, sp. n.

Type-host.—*Pterodroma brevirostris* (Lesson). Short-billed or Kerguelen Petrel. South Atlantic and southern Indian Oceans.

Though I should have preferred not to have established a new genus based on a single specimen, the necessity has been forced upon me, as the individual in question cannot be made to fit in any of the previously described genera. There is no doubt from its general facies that it is a petrel parasite, but its characters are distinct from the *Philoceanus-Pelmatocerandra* group on the one side, and from the *Synnautes-Halipeurus-Harrisoniella-Naubates* group on the other. It is probably an old transition form that has managed to survive.

Bedfordiella unica, sp. n.

Female.—A slender, strongly pigmented form. Head a little longer than broad, tapering anteriorly, with rounded clypeal front and an evenly concave occiput. The clypeal suture is distinct (see fig. 1). The clypeal, antennal, and temporal bands are heavily chitinized. The ocular and occipital blotches are very heavily chitinized. The antennal bands are thick, large at the bases,

Fig. 1.

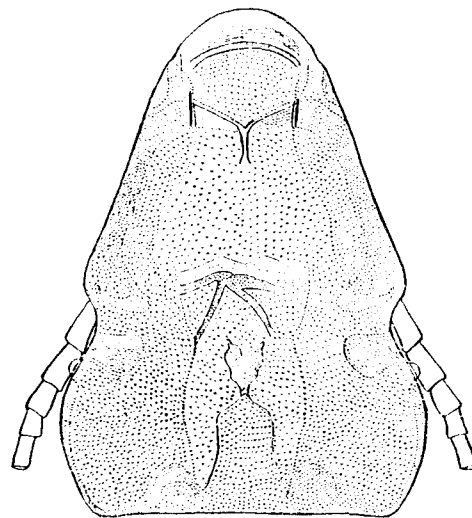


Fig. 2.

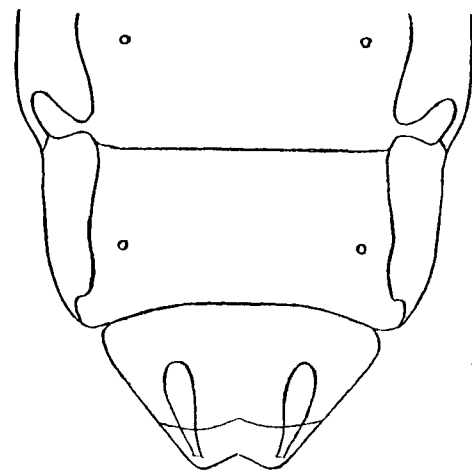


Fig. 1.—Head of *Bedfordiella unica*, sp. n., ♀.

Fig. 2.—Posterior segments of abdomen of *Bedfordiella unica*, sp. n., ♀.

and run anteriorly, then inwards towards a mid-line, but do not meet. There are no internal bands as in *Hali-pcurus*. Antennæ simple, the second segment slightly longer than the first, third and fourth almost equal, fifth about the same length as the first, which is broadest. Thorax widening posteriorly to almost equal the width of the temporal region of the head. Meso-metathorax about two and a half times longer than the prothorax. The metathorax with a very heavily chitinized marginal area, wide anteriorly and tapering posteriorly. Abdomen apparently nine-segmented, tapering slightly posteriorly, with heavy longitudinal marginal buttresses occupying about a tenth of its width. All the segments closely fused and uniformly chitinized. On the ventral side of the terminal segments are two fairly heavily chitinized, club-shaped markings (see fig. 2). The vulva appears merely as a crescentic slit bearing no setæ.

Measurements (in millimetres).

	Length.	Breadth.
Head.....	·72	·54
Prothorax	·15	·35
Metathorax	·39	·50
Abdomen	2·20	·67
Total length	3·46	

Type, female, in G. B. Thompson coll.