

New Species of Insects from Ceylon (7)

by

WILFRED FERNANDO

Professor of Zoology, University of Ceylon, Colombo

(With three Plates)

The present paper deals with the description of three new species of insects collected in Ceylon. Facilities for obtaining these specimens were provided by the University of Ceylon, for which I acknowledge my gratitude. The type specimens are deposited in the collection of the Department of Zoology of the University of Ceylon. The new species are listed below :—

1. *Tridactylus dreyfus*
2. *Gonolabis calas*
3. *Dorylaca archershee*

ORDER ORTHOPTERA

1. *Tridactylus dreyfus*, sp.n. (Plate 1, Fig. 1 and Plate 2, Figs. 2-4).

Small insects, rather longer than broad; colouration creamish white anteriorly, blackish posteriorly.

Head: Creamish white, except along posterior margin and anteriorly behind labrum. Eyes black. Ocelli, small, black.

Antennae: 10-jointed; basal joint black; second somewhat lighter; the colour gradually changes to light brown at the terminal joint; basal joint broader than long; 3rd joint longer than 2nd; rest of joints gradually increasing to the end.

Palpi: Creamish white, brownish at apex; 2nd joint shorter than 3rd; 3rd joint almost equalling 4th; 5th joint longest, equalling 3rd and 4th together. 2nd joint of labial palpi a little longer than 3rd; terminates in three elongate, brownish spines.

Pronotum: Creamish white; trapezoidal; feebly convex anterior margin, which is rounded laterally; posterior margin round.

Elytra: Light brown; adjacent at base, gradually narrowing towards apex, which is rounded.

Wings: Transparent; elongate, reaching beyond apex of abdomen almost to the tips of cerci. Venation visible.

Scutellum: Visible beneath clytra, with blackish pointed apex.

Legs: Anterior legs creamish white; femora thick with small spines; internal inferior margin with a row of about fifteen strong bristles, of which five are longer than the others; anterior tibiae short and wide, armed at apex with four spurs which are straight and rounded at apex, external face covered with small spines. Median femora elongated, rounded at apex, somewhat dark patch in middle; tibiae wider than femora but tapering at apex, conspicuous opaque white with transparent margin, but somewhat dark at base and apex; tarsi 3-jointed, the first two very short; apex of tarsal joints brownish. Posterior femora wide, compressed, dark brown; tibiae bearing three internal and four external lamellae; metatarsus tuberculiform; lamellae and spurs white; metatarsus black.

Abdomen: Blackish, with whitish apex, subgenital plate with somewhat crenulated margin. Cerci with 1st joint brown; 2nd joint yellowish. Anal valves creamish, light brown at apex.

Length of body: 4.5 mm.

Locality: Bank of Moderagam Aru, in Wilpattu National Park; 5 specimens; collected by Wilfred Fernando Jnr.

This new species of *Tridactylus* differs distinctly from those described from Ceylon in its coloration. I name it *Tridactylus dreyfus* after Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a victim of evil perjury resulting in a miscarriage of justice at the hands of a face-saving administration.

The specimens of *Tridactylus dreyfus* were collected by my son Wilfred on a trip to Wilpattu National Park during January 13th to 15th, 1961 along the bank of Moderagam Aru. The specimens were obtained with difficulty on account of the fact that the colouring of the insects blended with the sands of the river bank. I wish to thank the University of Ceylon and Mr. J. A. de Silva, Warden of the Department of Wild Life, for all the facilities given me during this trip. I wish to acknowledge my gratitude to Mr. H. P. de Alwis, Game Ranger of the Wilpattu National Park, who personally took us round the Park and very patiently assisted my two sons in collecting specimens during the trip.

ORDER DERMAPTERA

2. *Gonolabis calas*, sp.n. (Plate 3, Figs. 6-8).

Male: Small, slender, shining, dark brown in colour.

Head: Triangular; widest behind eyes; caudal angles rounded; caudal margin convex; sutures obsolete; scantily covered with hairs. Eyes black, smaller than 1st antennal joint. Maxillary palps short.

Antennae: 12-jointed; dark brown; last two joints yellowish; 1st joint cylindrical, longest; 4th and 5th joints somewhat globular, the rest gradually lengthening to become ovate.

Pronotum: Narrower than head, somewhat longer than broad and slightly broader at posterior margin; angles rounded; caudal margin rounded; caudal angles each with a stiff bristle; cephalic angles each with one long stiff and two short, stiff bristles; median suture well marked.

Elytra: Entirely absent.

Legs: Yellowish; femora brownish.

Abdomen: Dark brown, gradually widening from the base to apex. Last dorsal segment rectangular and twice as broad as long; posterior margin truncate; external depression and ridge present; penultimate ventral segment very broadly rounded.

Pygidium: Not protruding.

Forceps: Branches very stout and trigonal; remote at base; branches strongly bent inwards distally; inner margin somewhat crenulate.

Locality: University of Ceylon, Colombo. Two males collected by Mr. G. R. L. Wijeratne, of the laboratory staff of the Department of Zoology.

Length of body: 8.5 mm.

Length of forceps: 1 mm.

Maximum breadth of Abdomen : 2 mm.

Minimum breadth of abdomen: 1.5 mm.

This new species of *Gonolabis* differs from its closest relative *G. electa* in size, the antenna and the nature of the forceps. I name it *Gonolabis calas* after Jean Calas who was the victim of a gross miscarriage of justice and was legally murdered on March 9th, 1762. Voltaire worked indefatigably for three years to procure justice for Calas, who, long after his death, was finally declared innocent.

ORDER DICTYOPTERA

3. *Dorylaea archershee*, sp.n. (Plate 2, Fig. 5).

Female: Black. Ocelli testaceous. Eyes black. Base of antennal sockets whitish with a brown ring. Antennal joints dark brown to black. Clypeus yellowish-brown. Labrum dark brown. Maxillary palps dark brown. Labium whitish; labial palp brown.

Pronotum: Uniformly black; arched; postero-lateral angles rounded; posterior margin convex.



Tegmina: Black; extending up to 5th tergite only; well sclerotized; venation distinct.

Hind Wings: Membranous; well developed; shorter than tegmina.

Legs: Black, strongly spined; posterior metatarsus equal to the other joints combined and armed with two rows of fine spines; arolia large; tarsal claws symmetrical.

Abdomen: Black above and below; 7th abdominal tergite furrowed in middle. Supra-anal plate broadly furrowed in middle, with yellowish streak in middle; lateral lobes with scanty hairs.

Cerci: Black, robust, hairy, extending beyond supra-anal plate about half its length.

Total length: 27 mm.

Length of pronotum: 7 mm.

Breadth of pronotum: 12 mm.

Length of tegmen: 17 mm.

Locality: Talawakelle. 2 specimens collected by Mr. E. F. W. Fernando of the Tea Research Institute.

The present species resembles *Dorylaea zeylanica* Princis but differs from it in size and in the shape of the supra-anal plate. I name this new species *Dorylaea archershee* after Naval Cadet George Archer-Shee, the "Winslow Boy", who was the victim of a most palpable injustice committed during the early part of this century.

EXPLANATION OF PLATES

PLATE 1.

FIG. 1. *Tridactylus dreyfus*, sp.n.

FIGURE

1. *Tridactylus dreyfus* (dorsal view).

PLATE 2.

FIGS. 2—4 *Tridactylus dreyfus*.

FIGURE

2. Antenna.
3. Anterior leg.
4. Middle leg.

FIG. 5. *Dorylaea archershee*, sp.n.

FIGURE

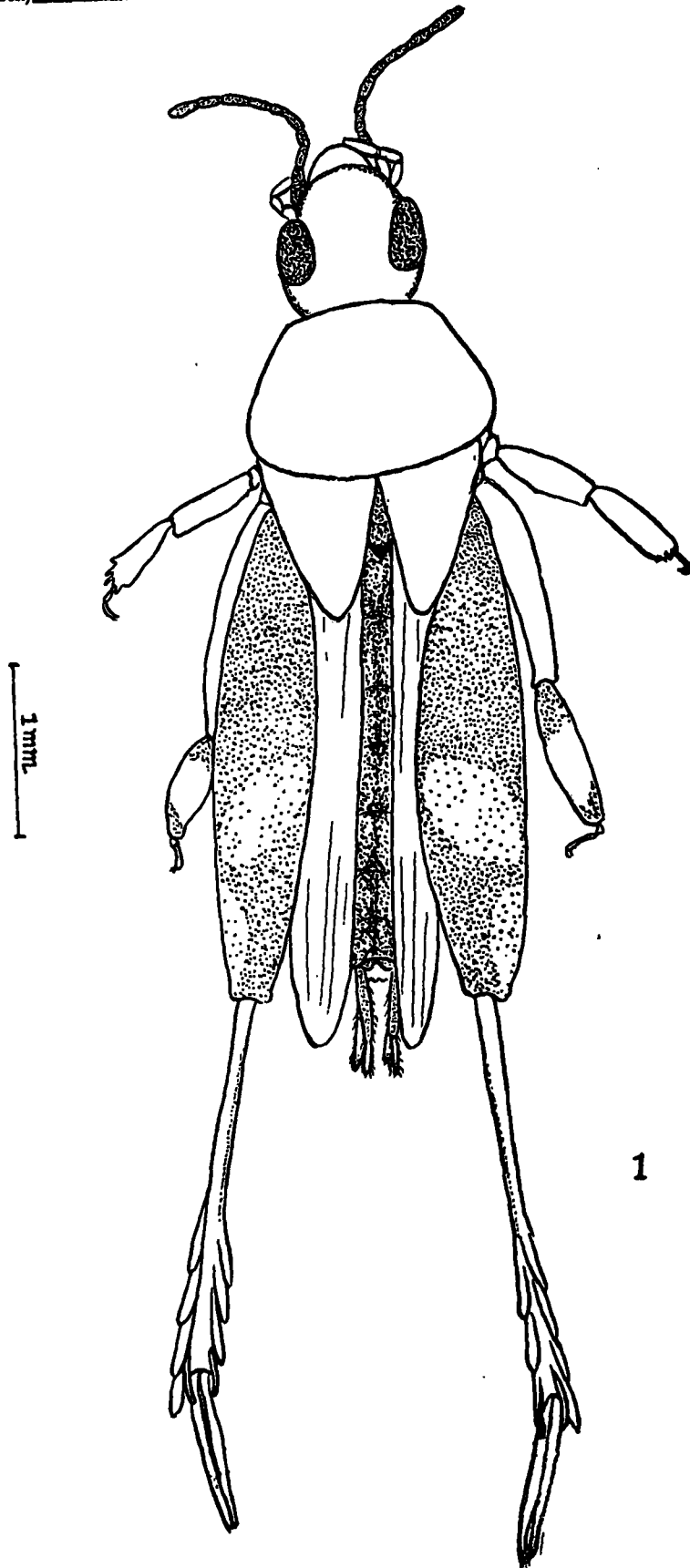
5. Apex of abdomen (dorsal view).

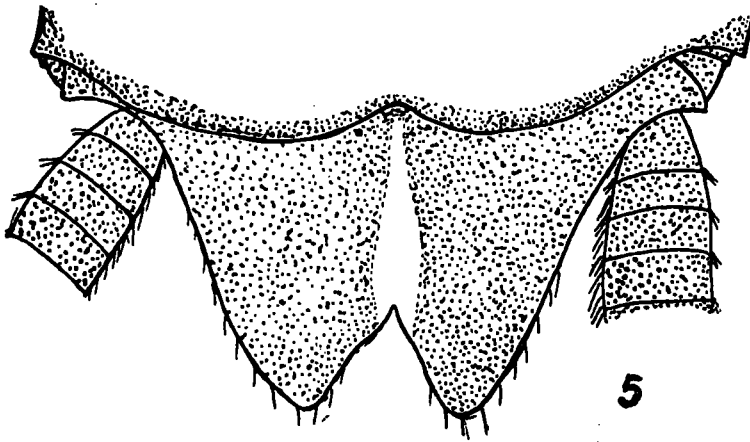
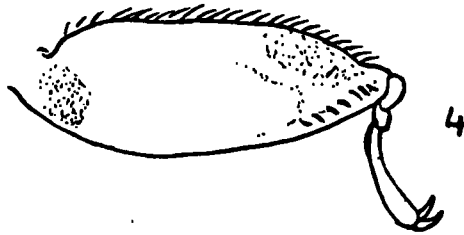
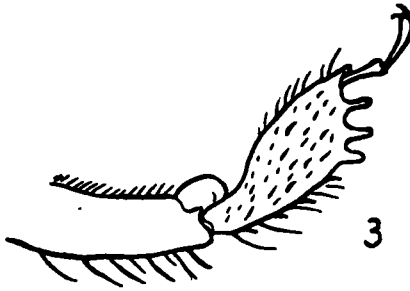
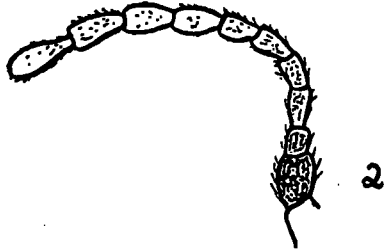
PLATE 3.

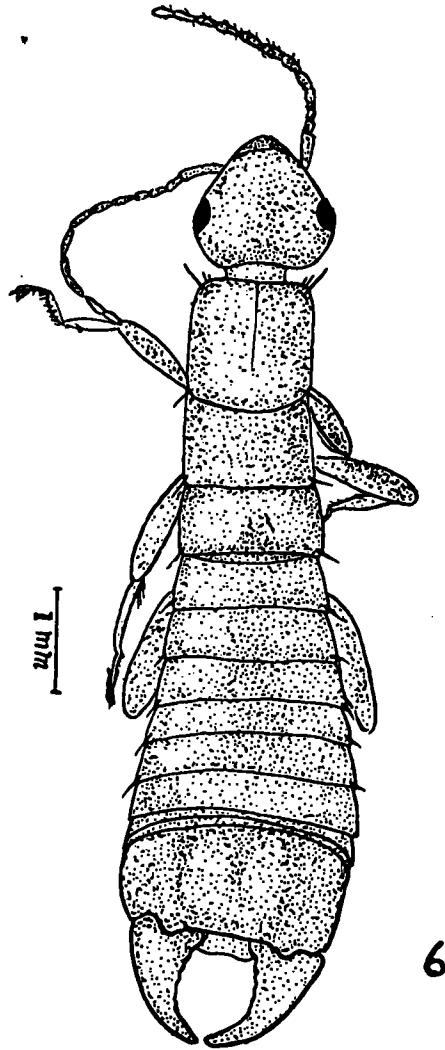
FIGS. 6—8 *Gonolabis calas*, sp.n.

FIGURE

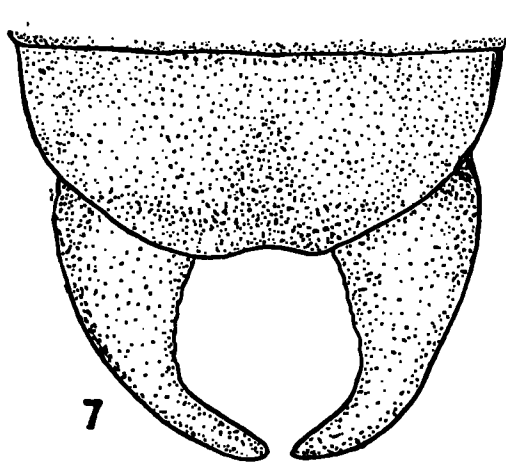
6. *Gonolabis calas* (dorsal view).
7. Apex of abdomen (ventral view).
8. Antenna.



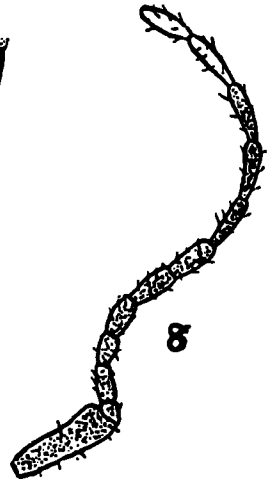




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