

## AUSTRALIAN PLATYPEZIDAE [DIPTERA].

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(Figures 1 and 2.)

To my knowledge no species of Australian Platypezidae have been described with the exception of one which was erroneously placed by A. White in the Empidæ<sup>1</sup>.

When collecting in Australia and in Tasmania in the years 1921 and 1923, I came across a few specimens of that family belonging to two species, and later Dr. Eustace W. Ferguson was kind enough to send me for study some specimens which he had collected in New South Wales. My best thanks are due to him for the loan of this material, which I have returned to him; the types are deposited in the Australian Museum, Sydney.

All these specimens belong to the genus *Platypeza*, and are small and inconspicuous forms of moderate interest, among which I distinguish four species that are rather difficult to differentiate unless a careful investigation of the male genitalia be made.

The species described by White, *Ironomyia maculata*, is, on the contrary, very interesting on account of its peculiar characters, which give it a special place in the family.

The chief characters of the Platypezidae may be summed up as follows:—

Head large; eyes nearly always touching in the male for a long space, well distant in the female; upper facets of the male's eyes nearly always dilated; antennae composed of three simple joints, the third joint being always larger than the others and sometimes conspicuously so, and provided with a terminal arista which has usually a small basal segment. Thorax with chaetotaxy little developed, only on the sides of the mesonotum and the edge of the scutellum. Legs nearly always with the hind tibiae dilated and also the first three or four joints of the hind tarsi; the genera *Opetia* and *Ironomyia* form an exception in this peculiar character of the family. The wings have a peculiar glassy texture, their venation varying a great deal according to genera; in the majority the anterior branch of M is forked and the discal cell is present, besides the vein  $Cu_1$  meets the anal vein in an acute angle, the so-called anal cell being therefore somewhat elongated; the genera *Opetia* and *Ironomyia* again form an exception in that respect.

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<sup>1</sup> White—Proc. Royal Soc. Tasmania, 1916, p. 217.