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A NEW SPECIES OF THREAD-WINGED LACEWING
(FAMILY NEMOPTERIDAE, ORDER NEUROPTERA
PLANIPENNA) FROM QUEENSLAND.

By

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(Figure 1.)

The discovery of a new Australian species of Thread-winged Lacewing is of considerable scientific interest, especially one of such beauty and delicacy as that under review.

The family Nemopteridae contains some of the most remarkable insects to be found in the whole Order Neuroptera, and includes the Spoon-winged Lacewings (sub-family Nemopterinae) and the Thread-winged Lacewings (sub-family Crocinae). Four species have been previously recorded from Australia; two in the Nemopterinae, *Chasmoptera hutti* Westwood (1847) and *C. superba* Tillyard (1925), both from Western Australia, and two in the Crocinae, *Croce attenuata* Froggatt (1904) and *C. longipennis* Navás (1910), the former extending from Central Australia to Queensland, the latter occurring in Western Australia. The present species forms the third Australian member of the Crocinae.

Order NEUROPTERA.

Family NEMOPTERIDAE.

Sub-fam. CROCINAE.

Genus *Croce* MacLachlan, 1885.

Croce mira, sp. nov.

Head creamy above with four elongate brown markings on apex; *rostrum* creamy with a dark lateral stripe extending along genae and sides of rostrum from anterior margin of eye; *eyes* large, black, prominent, finely granulate; basal segments of *antennae* creamy-yellow, becoming clouded with brown, apical segments smoky-brown; *palpi* with segments banded with smoky-black.

Thorax creamy above with purplish-black markings; *prothorax* narrow, conical, lightly clothed with scattered stout black setae, sides gradually rounded, broadly margined with purplish-black laterally and with two small, elongate, longitudinal brown markings on anterior margin; *mesothorax* broad, laterally lobed, with a broad purplish-black lateral stripe and two narrow, parallel, longitudinal median stripes, broken at centre, of the same colour, base broadly emarginate; *metathorax* small, narrow, purplish-black with an inverted, raised cordate area of a yellow colour in its centre. *Legs* pale yellowish-white, thickly clothed with short, stout, black spines giving the limbs a dusky hue. *Tarsi* four-

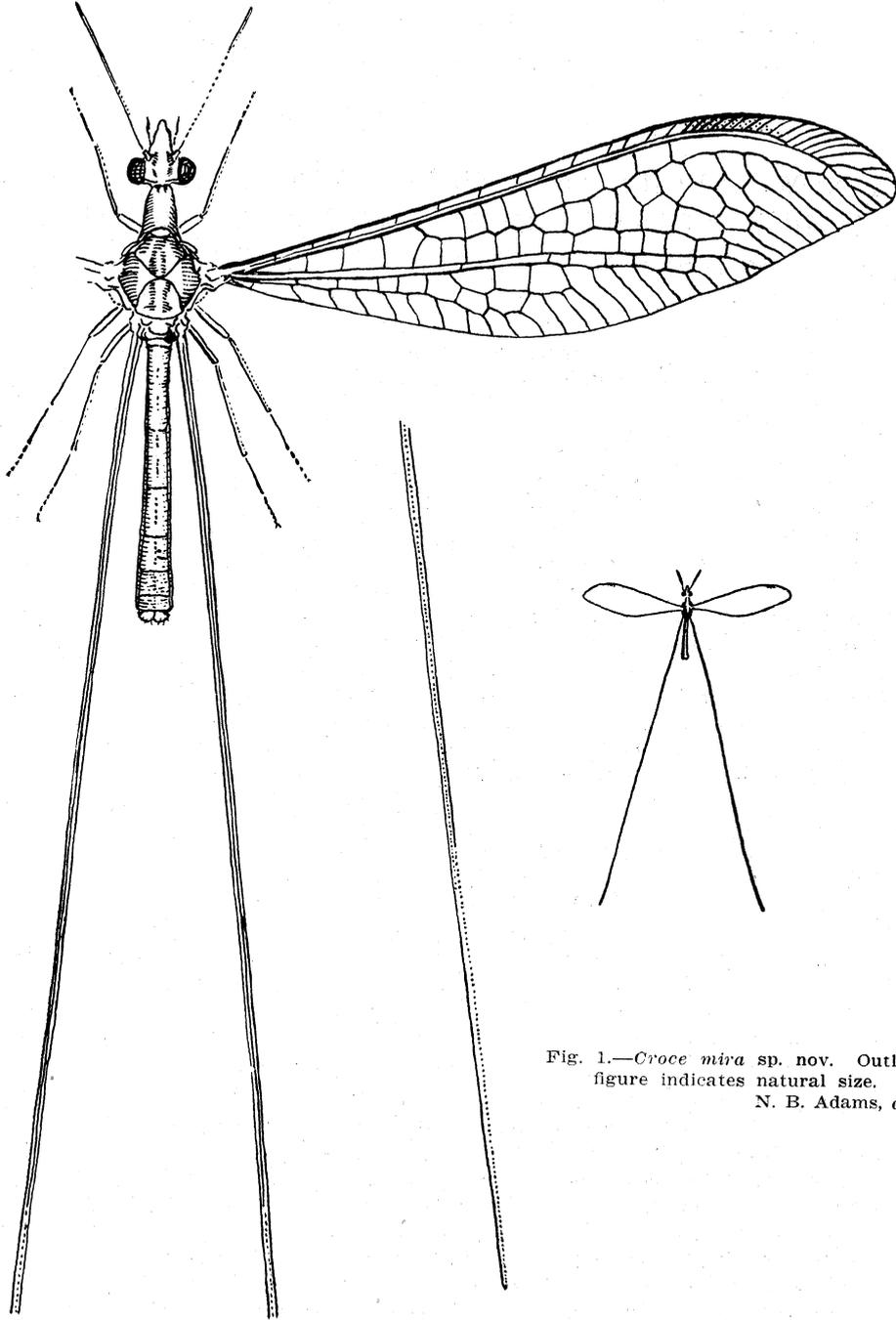


Fig. 1.—*Croce mira* sp. nov. Outline figure indicates natural size.
N. B. Adams, del.

jointed, segment 1 long, 2-3 short, 4 as long as 2-3 together, claws large, curved, black.

Wings.—*Forewing* hyaline except for a small patch of fuscous on pterostigma just before distal fusion of Sc and R₁. Veins setulose, black except for Sc and R₁, which are colourless, or with a slightly yellowish tint. Costal veinlets 24 in number. After fusing distally Sc and R₁ run obliquely downwards to below apex, leaving a rather wide pterostigmatic area above them. Rs has eight descending branches, Cu₁ five and Cu₂ two branches. Below Cu₂ + 1A is a single series of six veinlets. Apex narrowly rounded, slightly nodding. Forewing 3½ times longer than broad.

Hindwing excessively long (40 mm.) very slender and finely tapering. Basal portion for 12 mm. hyaline, with three distinct and stout veins, which I take to be Sc, R, and M, closely studded with short black setae; remainder white, setose.

Abdomen slender, cylindrical; colour creamy above, mottled and blotched with purplish-brown. Appendages very hairy, broadly forcipate, bright ferruginous. I believe the specimen to be a male.

Dimensions.—Total length of body 9 mm. Spread of wings 27 mm. Length of forewing 12½ mm. Breadth of forewing (at widest) 3½ mm. Length of hindwing 40 mm.

Female (?) similar, but abdomen rounded at extremity.

Hab.—Cunnamulla, Queensland (N. Geary), 10 November, 1938.

Holotype ♂ (?) and *allotype* ♀ (?) in Australian Museum, Sydney.

A very fine series of seven specimens of this beautiful insect was before me for examination.
