

Robinjohnia tillyardi Martynova, A Mecopteron from the Upper Permian of Belmont, New South Wales

By E. F. RIEK

Division of Entomology, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, A.C.T.

Plate 44. Fig. 1.

Manuscript received, 29th December, 1967

SUMMARY

Robinjohnia tillyardi Martynova is considered a mecopteron and placed in the Nannochoiristidae. The dipteran affinities of the fossil, enumerated by Tillyard in the original reference to this species, have not been recognized.

In 1937 Tillyard described and figured, but did not name, a fossil insect from the Upper Permian of Belmont which he placed in a new order, the Protodiptera, differing from Diptera mainly in possessing four wings. Martynova (1948) named the species *Robinjohnia tillyardi* from the illustrations given in the original publication and subsequently (1961, 1962) referred the species to the suborder Paratrachoptera (order Mecoptera). All four wings and most of the body are preserved. The wings of the left side are outspread, but those of the right side are superimposed on one another and the venation is partly obscured; however, the right side preserves more details of the forewing venation than does the outspread wing of the left side. Tillyard gave a reconstruction of the hindwing which he compared with the forewing

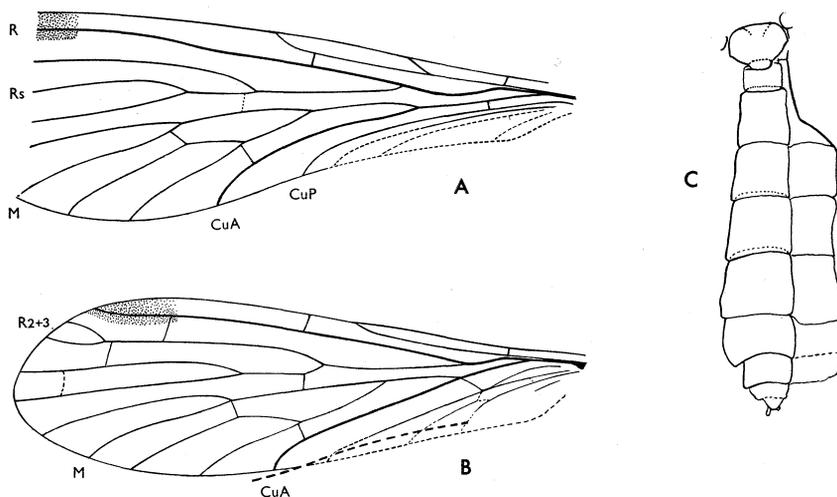


Fig. 1: *Robinjohnia tillyardi* Martynova. X15. A, left forewing. B, left hindwing. C, metanotum and abdomen