

A BLOOD-SUCKING SPECIES OF PERICOMA IN QUEENSLAND (DIPT.).

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(PLATE VII.)

Hitherto no flies of the family PSYCHODIDAE have been recorded from Australia. However, during the year 1913 three specimens of a single species were taken in Townsville, one of which was subsequently submitted to Mr. E. E. Austen, who informed the author that it belonged to the genus *Pericoma* and was probably a new species. As I have been unable to determine it as one of Brunetti's Oriental species, I now describe it as new.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude Mr. Austen's generous assistance to me on this and many other occasions.

***Pericoma townsvillensis*, sp. n.**

Head densely clothed with brown hairs with white apices; antennae pale, with white verticillate hairs, the base and second segment clothed with pale scales; palpi densely clothed with black scales. *Thorax* clothed with light brown hairs with white tips. *Abdomen* with very dense brown hairs with snow-white tips; venter clothed with dark brown hairs. *Legs* pale, covered with dark scales; the apex of the first tarsals white, all remaining tarsi white; the femora, tibiae and first tarsals with dark hairs and bristles, which are particularly prominent on the first tarsals and hind tibiae. *Wings* densely clothed with dusky hairs; fringe dusky and very prominent; veins pale, their apices and the forks of the second and fourth veins with very distinct black, scaly hair-spots.

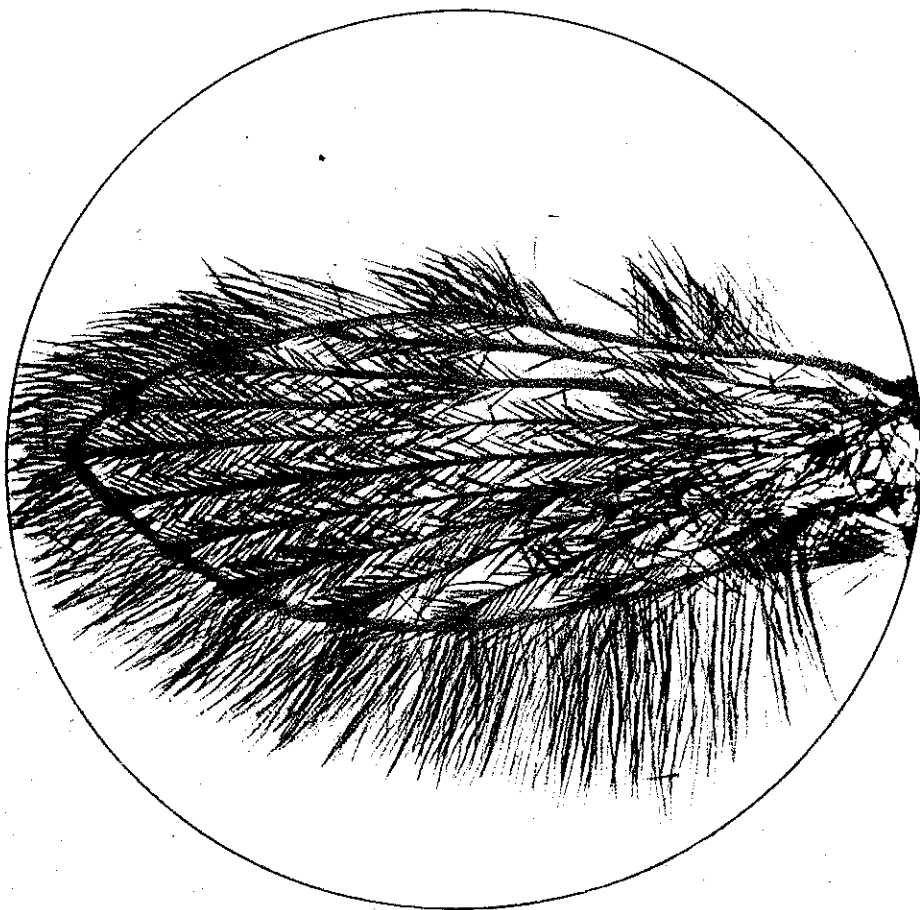
Length, 1.7 mm.

QUEENSLAND: Townsville (*Dr. H. Priestley* and *F. H. Taylor*).

Described from two specimens (a third in the British Museum), which were captured indoors during May. This species is a very severe biter, the irritation remaining for some hours. In one case the swelling raised by the bite was surrounded by a marked reddish areola, both of which persisted for three weeks.

Type and one other specimen in the collection of the Institute.

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Wing of *Pericoma townsvillensis*, Taylor, sp.n.