IS THERE A SPECIES HYBRIDIZATION IN THE GENUS \textit{GEDOELSTIA}? (DIPTERA: OESTRIDAE)

By

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With 9 Figures in the Text

(Received May 28, 1963)

The most recent discussion on the taxonomic status of this purely Ethiopian genus is given by Van Emden (1944). He recognizes two species, namely \textit{G. cristata} Rodhain and Bequaert (1913) and \textit{G. hässleri} Gedoelst (1915), the latter with the synonyms \textit{G. paradoxa} Rodhain and Bequaert (1915) and \textit{G. impolita} Austen (1934).

The imagines are distinguished by Van Emden as follows:

"1 (2). Mesonotum with a pair of glossy black weals on \textit{prst} part, which diverge slightly posteriorly and do not reach suture, a glossy black embossed spot on either side between the hind end of the weal and the notopleura, and a similar spot behind the suture forming an extension of the weals. Brown spots on the temples well defined, the interspaces being uniformly pale. Apex of \textit{r_{5+6}} more strongly recurrent, the opening of \textit{R_{3}} therefore normally much narrower than the last section of \textit{r_{4+5}} is long .... \textit{cristata}

2 (1). Mesonotum without black weals, and embossed black spots in their place with a dull dark brown-dusted inconspicuous pattern. Brown spots on the temples irregular and not very clearly defined from each other as the interspaces are speckled with brown. Apex of \textit{r_{4+5}} less strongly recurrent, the opening of \textit{R_{3}} therefore as wide as the last section of \textit{r_{4+5}} is long .... \textit{hässleri} Ged."

This key is still applicable. It may be added that the big paired tubercles on the abdominal tergites III to V are larger in \textit{G. cristata} than in \textit{G. hässleri} (Figs. 1—3) and that the hypopygia are also well distinguished (Figs. 4—6).

The generic features of the 3rd larval stages are quite characteristic (comp. Hennig, 1952). They are distinguished from the related species of the genus \textit{Oestrus} by the postanal convexity, which has no lateral protuberances, and by the structure of the posterior spiracles, which show a suture connecting the button with the ventral margin of the peritreme. The two species have already been separated by Gedoelst

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(1915) using the number of spinulose rows at the anterior margin of the segments. In *G. cristata* on the ventral side of segments V to XI there are 2 rows only, whereas there are 3—4 rows in *G. hässleri*. In both species, we must add, there may be an additional row of small spinules on some segments.

Figs. 1—3. *Gedoelstia cristata* Rohl. and Bequ. 3. Head and thorax in dorsal view, abdomen laterally and terminalia.

The geographical distribution of the two species seems to coincide almost completely, and the choice of the normal hosts is probably also identical. *G. hässleri* has been recorded or is otherwise known to us from the Transvaal, Natal, the Orange Free State and S.W. Africa, Bechuanaland, S. Rhodesia, Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda, the Sudan, Abyssinia and Nigeria. *G. cristata* is not known to us from the Free State, Natal and S. Rhodesia with certainty but it is known from the Cape Province. We have seen specimens from the Belgian Congo and from the Ivory Coast, but not from the Sudan, Uganda and Abyssinia.

Taking into consideration that all records of oestrids are sparse and accidental it does not prove anything, but very broadly seen, the general area of distribution is likely to coincide in both species.