

flavous marking below the frontal median patch, and two short lines near the anterior angles. Scutellum brown, triangular, impunctate. Elytra with dark brown striae, strongly punctate-striate, the intervals with narrow flavous lines, slightly carinate. Legs fulvous, clothed with short fine ashy pubescence, claws appendiculate. Underside fulvous, the ventral segments of the abdomen punctured and pubescent, the apical segment notched.

KENYA COLONY: Makuyu, 3. v. 1937 (*C. D. Knight*).

A very distinct species on account of its dark colour, and the elytra with alternate dark and pale striae.

*Blepharidella pallida*, sp. n. (Fig. 6.)

Pale flavous, the head and legs darker, the elytra strongly punctate-striate, the punctures fulvous and not close together.

Length 5-5.5 mm.

Head fulvous, with the clypeus flavous, deeply impressed near the eyes and rugosely punctured near the eyes and the base, the front and a longitudinal narrow patch between the antennae impunctate. Antennae flavous, with the five apical segments slightly darker, extending slightly beyond the base of the prothorax, the first segment long and more dilated, about equal to the second and third together. Prothorax pale, flavous, very transverse, the sides contracted and rounded in front, a deep punctured impression curving from the anterior margin towards the side-margin near the anterior angles, and a short longitudinal impression on each side near the basal margin, the basal margin with a few strong punctures. Scutellum fulvous, triangular, impunctate. Elytra pale flavous, strongly punctate-striate, the punctures fulvous and not very close together, the side-margins with a few fulvous spots. Legs fulvous, clothed with fine short golden pubescence, the posterior femora strongly incrassate and punctured. Underside fulvous, clothed with short fine golden pubescence.

S. AFRICA: Cape Province, Mossel Bay, iv. 1921 (*R. E. Turner*), 19 specimens.

Somewhat allied to *B. nigrotessellata* Baly, but differs in the position of the thoracic impressions, and its almost entirely pale flavous colour.

XXXI.—*The Nasal Septum in existing Asiatic Rhinoceroses.*

By R. I. Pocock, F.R.S. (Zoological Dept., British Museum of Natural History).

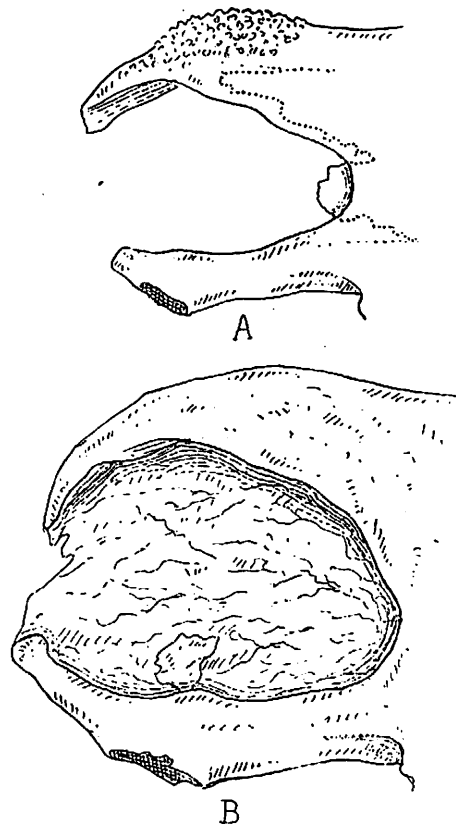
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As is well known the extinct woolly rhinoceros (*Tichorhinus antiquitatis*) takes its generic name from the complete ossification of the median nasal septum up to the anterior ends of the nasals and premaxillae. In existing rhinoceroses the septum is never ossified throughout and is usually entirely absent in the anterior part of the nasal chambers in dried skulls, being presumably removed by maceration and cleaning. But in one very old ♀ skull of *Rh. sondaicus*, in the British Museum, from Perak (Vernay, 32.10.21.1), it persists as a hard, apparently membranous plate with the same extension as in *Tichorhinus antiquitatis*; and it is strengthened on each side inferiorly by an irregularly-shaped bone attached to it just above the level of the posterior end of the alveolus of the large incisor of the premaxilla. This is the only skull I have seen in which this septum is preserved; and in the posterior part of the nasal chambers it is no doubt continuous with the ossified mesethmoid developed more or less in skulls of all rhinoceroses (fig. 1, B).

In an adult, but not old ♀ skull of *Rh. sondaicus* from the Sanderbans, Fraser (*Journ. As. Soc. Beng.* xlv. pt. 2, p. 10, pl. v. 1875) described and figured the mesethmoid as forming a complete partition three inches in front of the ethmoid, and as extending above along the lower surface of the nasals as far as the hinder end of the "horn-boss," where it was one inch deep, and similarly below along the upper surface of the vomer. But in addition this skull had an isolated bone, described by Fraser as part of a septum narium, attached to the lower surface of the anterior end of the nasals. It was nearly four inches long, overlapped the nasals laterally and extended about two inches below their tips, its apex being about that distance above the anterior ends of the premaxillary processes. A second skull from the Sanderbans mentioned by Fraser was apparently similar; and Peters (*Mon. A. K. Wiss. Berlin*, 1877, p. 71, pl. i.) figured a third skull of the same species from the Sanderbans, namely the type of *inermis* Lesson, clearly showing the presence of the

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Fig. 1.



A.—Side view of the anterior nares of an old ♂ skull of *Didymoceros sumatrensis* from Siboga, S.W. Sumatra, showing the nasal septum extending from the lower surface of the nasal bones above to the corner below, nearly reaching the margin of the nares in its upper portion and projecting a little beyond it in its lower portion. (Its concealed edge represented by dotted lines.)

B.—The same of a very old ♀ skull of *Rhinoceros sondaicus* from Perak in the Malay Peninsula, showing the unossified septum extending to the anterior ends of the nasals and premaxilla, which are exceptionally elongated, with its inferior ossification at the level of the alveolus of the tusk of the premaxilla. (The premaxilla of this skull, with their unusually lengthened and fused anterior processes, were recently figured and described in Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (11) xi. pp. 834–842, 1944.)

same bone beneath the tip of the nasals. There is no trace of it, however, in a skull from that locality in the British Museum (76.3.30.1), nor in one figured by Blyth in 1862 (Journ. As. Soc. Beng. xxxi. pl. i. fig. 2); but perhaps it was lost in the process of cleaning. And it is absent in all the other available skulls of this species.

In the skulls of *Rh. unicornis* the anterior part of the nasal chambers shows no evidence of a septum or of the special ossifications connected with it, described above in the skulls of *Rh. sondaicus* from Perak and the Sanderbans. But in an old ♂ skull figured by Blainville and in another in the British Museum (No. 51.11.10.2), there is a low, erect upgrowth from the premaxilla on each side, occupying nearly the same position as the septal bone in the skull from Perak, which is only attached to the premaxilla by connective tissue.

In *Didymoceros sumatrensis* the nasal septum seems to be better developed than in the Asiatic one-horned rhinoceros. In an old ♂ skull from Siboga, S.W. Sumatra (Schreber, 94.9.24.1), it is represented by a double lamina of delicate bone with its free anterior edge clearly broken, but it extends above beneath the middle line of the nasals as far as the centre of the greatly roughened "horn-boss" and below is visible in profile view, projecting slightly beyond the posterior margin of the nasal aperture above the base of the maxillary process supporting the premaxilla. How much further forwards it may have extended before being fractured it is impossible to say. Posteriorly it is continuous with the thickly ossified mesethmoid (fig. 1, A).

In a still older ♀ skull, the type of *lasiotis* (1.1.22.1) from Chittagong, the thickly ossified mesethmoid reaches farther forwards, almost up to the posterior edge of the nasal aperture, without being quite visible in profile view, but above it is continued as a ridge along the lower surface of the nasals beneath the "horn-boss," and here it is visible when the skull is viewed from the side. In my opinion, there is no doubt that the delicate laminate extension of the mesethmoid present in the Sumatran skull was also developed in the skull from Chittagong, and probably reached about half-way along the nasal apertures; but no trace of it now remains.

In these, and some other adult skulls of the species, there is a pair of low, nearly parallel ridges extending along the lower side of the nasals, forming a shallow groove along which presumably the upper edge of the septum extended: but in the old ♀ skull of the type of *niger* (No. '72.12.31.1), from Malacca, there is on the lower side of the nasals just behind the level of the "horn-boss," but not quite visible in profile view, a bilaminate bony down-growth which apparently embraced and supported the missing delicate anterior extension of the septum. In a young skull from British North Borneo there are no ridges on the lower surface of the nasals and the bony septum is practically negligible, being developed only far back in the nasal chambers.

XXXII.—Note on some South African Terrestrial Isopoda.

By WALTER E. COLLINGE, D.Sc., President of the Northern Ecological Association.

COMPARATIVELY speaking only little attention has been paid to the Terrestrial Isopoda of South Africa, and most of the papers dealing with such have been written by non-residents. The geographical situation has more than usual interest.

For some time past I have been receiving collections made in Zululand, Natal, Rhodesia and elsewhere, which have added considerably to our knowledge of the distribution. Some of the material still awaits investigation.

During the past few years numerous new genera and subgenera have been proposed, many on the most trivial characters and quite inadequate diagnoses. It is exceedingly regrettable that this confusion should be introduced into an already difficult subject, a closer and wider acquaintance with the salient features of generic distinction would have obviated this distressful practice. Moreover, many of the new genera and subgenera are diagnosed in two, three or five lines of print!

In my papers on the Terrestrial Isopoda of Natal\*, owing to the carelessness of the artist, the correct number of mesosomatic and metasomatic segments, in a number

\* Ann. Nat. Mus. 1917, iii, pp. 567-585, pls. xl-xlii.; 1919, vi, pp. 229-233, pl. xiv.; 1920, iv, pp. 471-490, pls. xxvii.-xxxii.

of cases, are wrongly shown. It is at once evident that these are not cases of teratology or abnormalities, as presumed by Mr. Barnard\*, they are errors; all the specimens were normal.

Curiously, Mr. Barnard in his own figures has fallen into the same error: thus on p. 189 he figures *Ligia dilatata* with seven metasomatic segments; on p. 203, *Parantoniscus montanus* is shown with only five segments in the metasome; on p. 207, *Phylloniscus braunsi* is given eight mesosomatic segments; and on p. 319, *Akermania* is depicted with only four metasomatic segments! One or two others are doubtful, the thumb-nail sketches not always being clear.

"Humanum est errare," but those who live in glass-houses should not throw stones.

I am now able to add the following new localities to thirteen species and a new species to be described later:—

*Tylos granulatus* Krauss.

Die Südafrik Crust. 1843, p. 64, pl. 4, fig. 3.

Hab. Natal, Durban Bay.

*Deto echinata* Guérin.

Mag. Zool. 1836, vi, p. 2, pl. xiv.

Hab. Natal, Durban Bay.

*Alloniscus spatulifrons* (Barn.).

Ann. S. Afr. Mus. 1932, xxx, p. 234.

A single specimen from near Cape Town is probably an immature example of this species, but the uropoda are entirely different from those figured.

*Philoscia dilectum* Cllge.

Ann. Nat. Mus. 1917, iii, p. 597, pl. xlii, figs. 21-31.

Hab. Natal, Durban Bay. Rhodesia, Sanyati Valley.

My collector writes: "This species occurs in thousands all along the littoral, frequently to the exclusion of all other species."

\* Ann. S. Afr. Mus. 1932, xxx, pp. 179-388, 80 figs.