

## Notes on Synonymy Among New Zealand Insects—I

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THE purpose of this short paper is to record three cases of synonymy that have come to my notice when working over the entomological collections housed in the Dominion Museum.

Order ODONATA

Sub-order ANISOPTERA

Genus PROCORDULIA Martin, 1906

1871 *Somatochlora* Selys (in part)

### **Procordulia smithii** (White), 1846

- 1846. *Cordulia smithii* White
- 1868. *Cordulia novae-zealandiae* Brauer
- 1871. *Epitheca grayi* Selys
- 1904. *Somatochlora smithii* Hudson
- 1904. *Somatochlora grayi* Hudson

There are in the Dominion Museum two quite fine series of this dragonfly, one being in the Hudson Collection and the other in the Museum's main collection, and from a study of these it is evident that the species hitherto known as *smithii* and *grayi* respectively are identical and must be merged under the one name *smithii*. The wing colour varies in all stages from clear to deeply tinted. The antenodals of the fore-wing may be seven or eight, or there may be seven on one side and eight on the opposite side in either clear or coloured winged specimens, male or female. Some typical female *smithii* with a colour patch behind the pterostigma have seven antenodals and some have eight. The colour pattern of *grayi* usually goes with eight antenodals, but sometimes it has only seven. One of our specimens has a nervule in the triangle of the hind-wing. The membranule may vary from almost absent to almost filling the posterior excavation of the hind-wing. The colour of the face varies from greenish to yellowish.

Order HEMIPTERA

Sub-order HOMOPTERA

Family CICADIDAE

Genus MELAMPSALTA Amyot, 1847

### **Melampsalta campbelli** (Myers), 1923

- 1923 *Pauropsalta campbelli* Myers
- 1923 *Pauropsalta maorica* Myers
- 1927. *Melampsalta campbelli* Myers
- 1927. *Melampsalta maorica* Myers

I have collected this species from many parts of New Zealand and the specimens are deposited in the Dominion Museum collections, which now contain a fine series. This cicada can readily be recognised

in the field by its characteristic chirping sound. Several of the specimens in the Museum's collections have five apical cells in the hind-wing and would identify as *M. maorica* Myers (*Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, 77, p. 31). However, the series also contains several specimens with five apical cells on one side and six on the opposite side. This, together with the fact that the colour pattern varies from that typical of *campbelli* to that typical of *maorica*, establishes the synonymy of the two species, and, as *campbelli* has page priority over *maorica*, the species must henceforth be known under the name *campbelli*. The type specimen of *maorica*, which is in the Cawthron Institute collections, has a prominent red band over the tip of the abdomen, but many specimens of *campbelli* also have this; in fact, the red banding and silver pubescence of the abdomen is a very variable character.

Order DIPTERA

Sub-order CYCLORRHAPHA

Superfamily ACALYPTERAE

Family EPHYDRIDAE

Genus EPHYDRELLA Tonnoir and Malloch, 1926

1937. *Mydaezcelandia* Salmon

***Ephydrella spathulata* Cresson, 1935**

1937. *Mydaezcelandia glauca* Salmon

I am indebted to Dr Miller, of the Cawthron Institute, Nelson, for first drawing my attention to the synonymy of my species with that of Cresson, a synonymy in which I concur.

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