

Comments on *Hemerobius ceraticus* Nav. (Neuroptera)

By

BO TJEDER

I am indebted to Prof. Lars Brundin for the opportunity of studying the type specimen of *Hemerobius ceraticus* Nav., collected during His Royal Highness Prince Wilhelm's of Sweden expedition in Central Africa in 1920—21. The species in question was described by Navás in 1924. The short description deals only with characteristics in size, colour and venation and requires therefore to be completed.

Hemerobius ceraticus Nav.

(Figs. 1—4)

Synonymy

Hemerobius ceraticus Navás, Ark. f. Zool. Bd. 16, No. 13, p. 2. 1924.

Locus typicus: Mukeno in Belgian Congo. — Type: one ♀ in the collections of the Riksmuseum, Stockholm.

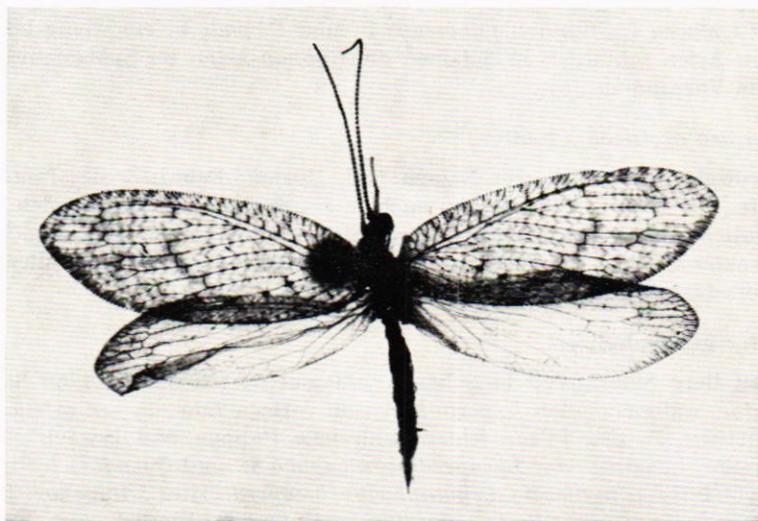
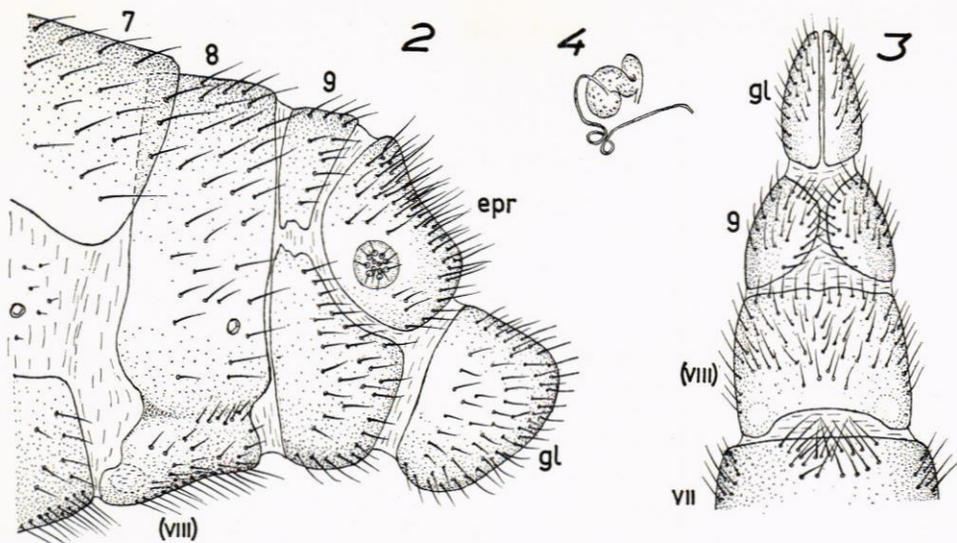


Fig. 1. *Hemerobius ceraticus* Nav. Type-specimen.

Entomol. Ts. Arg. 82. II. 1—2, 1961



Figs. 2—4. *Hemerobius ceraticus* Nav. — 2. Apex of abdomen, lateral. — 3. Ditto, ventral. — 4. Spermatheca. — Abbreviations: epr=ectoproct; gl=gonapophyses laterales; 7—9=7th—9th tergites; VII=7th sternite; (VIII)=secondary 8th sternite.

Description

Type specimen: a pinned ♀, labelled: "Birunga, Mukeno (Pr. W. Exp. Gyld.) *Hemerobius ceraticus* Navas S. J. det. (Typus)".

Size: length of body 7 mm, of forewing 7.5 mm, of hindwing 6.5 mm.

Head: vertex yellowish with a round, brown spot above each antenna; frons brownish with a piceous spot towards each eye; clypeus yellowish brown; genae piceous; labrum brownish; palpi yellowish brown; antennae yellowish brown, somewhat darker towards apex; their first segment with a broad, dark brown stripe on the under surface.

Pro-, meso- and metanotum with a central yellowish stripe and brownish lateral parts. Legs straw-coloured; last segment of tarsi brownish.

Wings (Fig. 1). Forewings with yellowish tinged membrane, richly suffused with rather dark brown sagittate markings along the longitudinal veins, which markings are confluent in the outer part of the wing, forming indefinite stripes as shown in the figure. Longitudinal veins and costals pale with dark interruptions. Crossveins dark. Hindwings with hyaline membrane and yellowish venation.

Abdomen dark brown with pale yellowish, rather long hairiness. Segment 8 very broad, especially in its lateral, downwards prolonged portions which are fused with a broad plate covering the segment underneath (figs. 2 and 3). Tergite 9 divided laterally into a dorsal plate and a lateral plate on each side. The upper margin of the backwards expanded lateral plates is slanting; the hind margin almost straight. Gonapophyses laterales rather short; their hindmargin obliquely rounded (fig. 2). Ectoprocts distally broadly rounded. Callus cerci large with the trichobothria concentrated to the middle of the callus (fig. 2). Spermatheca twisted, pale and weak (fig. 4). Subgenitale

lacking but a pair of uncoloured, indifferent structures present above the proximal corners of the ventral plate of segment 8, indicated with dotted lines on figs. 2 and 3.

Geographical Distribution

N. E. Belgian Congo: Mikeno Mountain, a volcano in the Virunga chain, one ♀ (type), undated, leg. Dr. Nils Gyldenstolpe, in coll. Riksmuseum, Stockholm.

Note

This species is of especial interest as being the single hitherto known one which possesses a sternite-like plate on segment 8. The tergite 8 has in this genus always downwards prolonged sides which are usually united with membrane on the underside of the abdomen. In some species their apices are togethergrown, the tergite thus forming a complete ring around the abdomen. In *H. ceraticus*, however, it seems quite evident that the apices of the tergite not are fused to one another but to a plate-like structure which may be considered as a secondarily developed 8th sternite.

Hemerobius ceraticus Nav. is in general appearance similar to *H. reconditus* Nav. 1914, a common African species, known from Uganda, Kenya, S. Rhodesia, the Transvaal, Natal, Basutoland, Orange Free State, and the Cape Province. That species has, however, less heavily spotted forewings and no evident sternal plate on segment 8, the tergite-halves meeting and togethergrown.