

ON A REMARKABLY COLOURED *PANESTHIA* (BLATTIDAE) FROM SUMBA ISLAND

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THE sub-family PANESTHINAE (BLATTIDAE), with its two principal genera *Salganea* Stål and *Panesthia* Serville, is restricted to the Oriental and Australian regions. The known species of *Salganea* are all black in colour, whilst in several species of *Panesthia* shades of brown and orange are found, in addition, on the body or on the tegmina. The full-grown forms of *P. javanica* Serville, by far the most common species of the genus, are of a more or less uniform black or dark chestnut colour, but in the larval (apterous) stages mesonotum and metanotum are each marked with a pair of orange spots. In *P. regalis* Walker, from Assam, only the mesonotum is thus marked.

The tegmina of the various species of *Panesthia* may be fully developed or much abbreviated. Amongst the former there occur several strikingly bicolorous species. In *P. flavipennis* Wood-Mason, from the Naga Hills, Assam, the tegmina are orange, with a large black blotch in the distal half. *P. transversa* Burmeister (= *P. mandarinea* Saussure),* from the Malay region, has the tegmina in alternating transverse bands black, pale orange, black and pale orange again. In *P. regalis* Walker, from Silhet, Assam, the proximal two-fifths of the tegmina are orange, the remainder black. *P. plagiata* Walker, from Ceylon, has the tegmina black, with a transverse orange bar near the centre. *P. modiglianii* Hanitsch, from Siboga, Sumatra, resembles the preceding species, but whilst in *plagiata* that bar is of a more or less uniform width, it is distinctly triangular in shape in *modiglianii*.

Of the species of *Panesthia* with abbreviated tegmina only unicolorous species have so far been recorded. The first known bicolorous species, from Sumba, Malay Archipelago, has been sent to me by Dr. Dammerman, Director of the Zoological Museum in Buitenzorg. Its much reduced, but bright yellow tegmina are in startling contrast to the intensively black shining body. This new species may be described as follows:—

***Panesthia luteo-alata* sp. n.**

♂. Head slightly exposed between the cornua of the pronotum; shining black, clypeus orange-testaceous, mouth-parts black (antennae missing). Pronotum shining black, anterior margin with two blunt cornua; disk anteriorly depressed, the depression behind and at the sides enclosed by a ridge-like swelling, with two blunt tubercles behind. Mesonotum, metanotum and abdomen shining black, finely punctured in front, coarsely so behind. Sides of seventh tergite entire, posteriorly drawn out into a short spine. Supra-anal plate on its posterior margin with six faint undulations. Cerci bulbous, shining black. Tegmina much abbreviated, barely reaching to the posterior margin of the metanotum, separated from each

* The synonymy of *P. transversa* Burm. and *P. mandarinea* Sss. is discussed in my paper 1932, *Ann. Mus. Stor. nat. Genova*, 56 : 86-87.

other by nearly one-half of the width of the mesonotum; oval in outline; ochre yellow,* very narrowly margined with olive-brown. Wings absent. Legs shining black; right anterior femur with three spines, left with two.

♂. Total length 37 mm., pronotum, length 8 mm., width 14 mm.; tegmina, length 8 mm., width 6 mm.

1 ♂ Kananggar, E. Sumba, 700 m. *Dammerman*, May 1925.

Its nearest ally seems to be *P. penrissensis* Han., from Mt. Penrissen, Sarawak (1933, *J. F.M.S. Mus.* 17 : 335, fig. 24). In that species, however, the tegmina are somewhat larger, partly overlapping each other, and are castaneous in colour.

* According to the colour chart in E. Séguy's *Code Universel des Couleurs*, Paris, 1936; and corresponding to "antimony yellow" in R. Ridgway's *Color Standards*, Washington, 1912.

