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A NEW BRAZILIAN SPECIES OF *PHELLOPTERON* HULL (DIPTERA, ASILIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

Phellopteron mrazi, sp. n. (type-locality, Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Itatiaia), is described and placed in the hitherto monotypic genus. The new species is compared to *P. farri* Hull, the type-species of the genus, known only from Jamaica.

Through the Czechoslovakian Entomological Society I have received some specimens of Brazilian Asilidae, captured by Mr. J. Mráz. Among those specimens I found a new species of *Phellopteron* Hull, which is described below.

I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Messias Carrera, for his help with the manuscript and for checking the description.

Phellopteron Hull

Phellopteron Hull, 1962: 341. Type-species, *Phellopteron farri* Hull, 1962 (monotypic).

The genus *Phellopteron* was up to the present, a monobasic genus. Its only species was *farri* Hull, 1962, from Jamaica. According to Hull (*l.c.*) this genus is related to *Rhopalogaster* Macquart, and belongs to the subfamily Laphriinae, tribe Laphriini.

Phellopteron mrazi, sp. n.

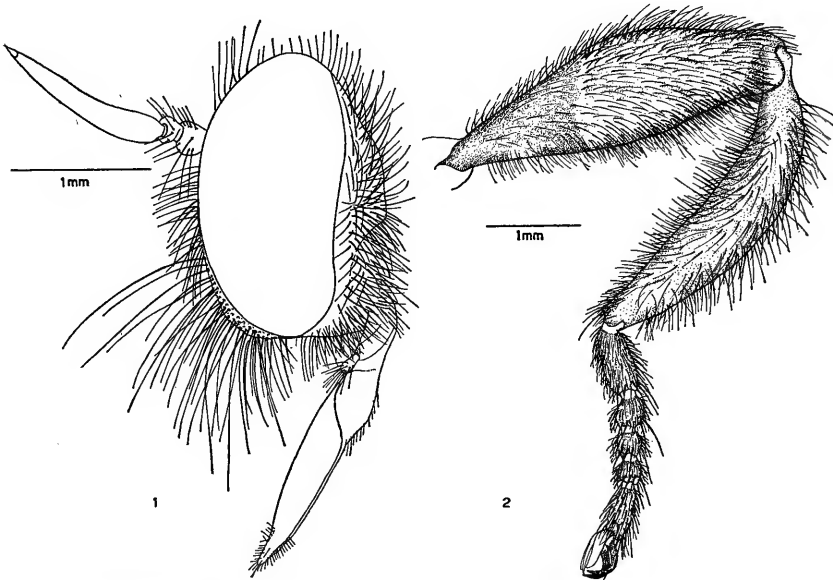
(Figs. 1-2)

Female: 11 mm long; wing 10 mm.

Head broader than wide, deeply excavated in the vertex; face slightly protuberant, black and shining in the middle, with blackish pubescence and whitish-yellow hairs on the sides; mystax with fine black bristles, placed on the inferior half of face; palpi short, reaching the basal fourth of the proboscis, and with black pile; proboscis black with black basal pilosity; occiput clothed with black hairs; ocellar tubercle very high, but not reaching the upper border of the eyes, with two black bristles and fine hairs; antennae with first and second joints very short, more or less

globose and almost of same length; third joint black and flattened laterally, very long, four times longer than the first two together, ending in a microstyle with a microscopic spine; the first two antennal joints reddish-yellow, with blackish hairs.

Thorax black, as long as broad, but narrower than head, with black hairs, which are very abundant in the pronotal "callus"; mesonotum convex, without stout bristles; mesopleura and pteropleura with dense black pubescence; metapleura with a tuft of long black pile; scutellum with a row of black marginal bristles and some black pile on the surface; post-scutellar callosities bare.



Phellopteron mrazi, sp. n.: 1, side view of head; 2, hind leg.

Legs: all coxae black; first and second pair with black femora and tibiae, and with black pile; tarsi reddish, with black and fine pubescence on upper side and long yellow hairs, mixed with black, on the ventral side; metatarsi as long as the following three joints; fourth tarsal joint as long as preceding ones; middle pair of legs with metatarsi shorter; hind pair of legs with coxae bulgy and clothed with black pile; femora very thick, club-shaped, black on anterior half and reddish-yellow posteriorly, clothed with dense blackish hairs on the dark region and yellow on the reddish; tibiae moderately thick, arcuated, reddish-yellow, except on the apical third which is black; the hairs are dense and yellow on the clear region, black on the dark; tarsi reddish-yellow, with black pile on the upper side and yellow on the under side; metatarsi thicker than the others, as long as the second and third joints together. Pulvilli yellow; claws yellow on the base, black on the apex.

Wings dark clouded on the basal half, having light places in the middle of the apical cells; all veins black, but with yellow regions on the first and second branch of Radius; marginal, first and fourth posterior cells are closed and petiolate. Halteres black.

Abdomen not narrow basally, with eighth segments, all black, with metallic reflections; first segment with long and black hairs on the base, the others with black short hairs on the sides; fourth segment is the broadest; the last one with long black hairs on the upper surface; sternites with black metallic sheen and fine dark pubescence. Ovipositor short, with dark lamella and long white hairs dorsally.

Male: unknown.

TYPES

Holotype ♀, from Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Itatiaia, 3.XII.1928, J. F. Zikán col. (in the Departamento de Zoologia, São Paulo); paratype ♀, from São Paulo, São Paulo, J. Mráz col. (in the Prague Museum).

TAXONOMIC DISCUSSION

The genus *Phellopteron* Hull, 1962 was described for a single species, *farri*, from Jamaica. The new species, here described, is the second species of the genus. *Phellopteron mrazi*, sp. n., may be distinguished from *farri* by the following characters: the clear hairs of the face are not scale-like and the black bristles of the mystax never change to white in the lower portion of the face; occipital pile all black; the first segment of the antennae is very short, not three or four times as long as the second, but of same length; third antennal segment four times the combined length of the first two segments. Mesonotum without vittae; marginal scutellar bristles black; all the pile of the pleura are black. Hind femora club-shaped, reddish-yellow on anterior half and black posteriorly, without bristles; hind tibiae stout, arcuated, reddish-yellow. Abdomen with metallic sheen; hairs black.

The species is named in honor of Mr. J. Mráz.

REFERENCE

HULL, F. M.

- 1962: Robber Flies of the World. The genera of the family Asilidae. *Bull. U. S. Nat. Museum* 224 (1-2), 907 pp., 2536 figs.

