spider-like, dark reddish, with short black hair; coxæ and trochanters red; first tarsal joint very short, second long; claws slender, simple; abdomen shining red-brown, except first segment, which is pale reddish; segments 2 to 6 each with four transverse red spots, the midmost pair more basal than the others; sides and under surface of abdomen with black hair; claspers very small.

The venation is in general like that of typical *Hormomyia* (Williston, N. A. Dipt., 3rd Ed., p. 119, f. 4), except that the third vein does not bend down so much apically, while the lower branch of the fifth bends down more, entering the margin practically at right angles. There is, however, a much more remarkable character; the third vein is continued straight to the base of the fifth (it is reddish and very distinct), and *the little cross-vein to the first, which is supposed to be the real beginning of the third, is totally absent*.* There is a little vein leaving the first just above the origin of the third from the fifth, continuing a short distance obliquely downward and *basad*, and failing to connect with anything. I have examined the specimen over and over again with the lens and compound microscope, and there is no doubt about the structures. This affords, I think, a strong argument in favour of the view that the third vein is the real media (as I have suggested in my studies of Nemestrinidæ), the so-called cross-vein being part of it. According to this view, the condition found in *Sciara*, various Cecidomyiidæ, etc., is genuinely primitive, and a further investigation of these types may be expected to yield significant results.

NOTES ON THE GENUS *SITARIDA*, WHITE.

BY F. CREIGHTON WELLMAN, M. D., F. E. S., WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Australian Meloid genus *Sitarida* was founded by White in 1846 on *Sitarida Hopei*, a new species described by himself. The type, from New Holland, was a single ♀, which is still in the British Museum. In 1863 Pascoe erected the genus *Goetymes* for the reception of his newly-described *Goetymes flavicornis*, from Port Stephens, represented by a single ♂ specimen (type), also in the British Museum.

*On one side only there is a thin colourless line, no thicker than the hairs on the same part of the wing, passing from the first vein to the third. It seems not to be a rudiment of a vein. At the base there is a thin colourless thread passing from the first to the third, touching the tip of the broken vein and ending a little before the forking of the third and fifth.

November, 1908

The only real differential character given by Pascoe for the separation of *Goetymes* from *Sitarida* is indicated in the following words: "The nearest ally of this genus is *Sitarida* White, from which, *inter alia*, it differs, as it does from every other of the family, in its flabeillate antennæ." It need hardly be pointed out that the above-mentioned difference is nothing more than a sexual dimorphism, and a comparison of the types of the two genera has convinced me that they not only belong to the same genus, but that they probably even represent the sexes of one species. I am the more encouraged in this idea by finding while looking through the literature that Mr. Waterhouse has apparently held the same view, as Beau-regard (*Les Ins. Vés.*, p. 407) writes: "M. Waterhouse m'a dit qu'il avait des raisons de croire que *Sitarida* et *Goetymes* ne sont que le ♂ et la ♀ d'une même espèce." The differences in the antennal structures of the specimens examined by me may be given in Pascoe's own words, as follows: "In both they are 11-jointed; but in *Sitarida*¹ the first four are simple, while each of the remaining seven throws out laterally and at the base a short square lamina, this portion of the antenna being, in fact, pectinate. In *Goetymes*² the first three joints only are simple, the remainder being drawn out into long laminæ, closely applied to each other at the base, and forming a compact mass when at rest." The other differences relate chiefly to the size and colour of the specimens, with the exception that the thorax in the ♀ is (as would quite be expected) somewhat more coarsely punctured than in the ♂. It may be added that the examination of the single specimens in the British Museum shows that both have simple claws, a character not elsewhere met in the family except in *Hornia*.³

Two additional forms, both of them evidently distinct, have been described, and, treating White's and Pascoe's species for the time being as separable, the list of species now stands as follows:

Genus—*Sitarida*, White, Stoke's Discov. in Austral., I, 1846, p. 508.

Goetymes, Pascoe, Journ. Ent., II, 1853, p. 47.

1. The female.

2. The male.

3. Westwood's statement (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., 1875, p. 226), that his genus *Deridea* has simple claws, is a mistake; the claws, while very small, are of the usual Meloid type, as may be seen under the low power of a compound microscope.

Species—1. *Hopei*, White, *loc. cit.*, p. 508, tab. 2, fig. 2, ♀ (*Sitarida*).
New Holland.

Large species, black, head convex, strongly rounded in front, coarsely sculptured, thorax subtrigonal, sides slightly rounded, coarsely punctured, legs robust, tarsi short.

2. *flavicornis*, Pasc., *loc. cit.*, p. 48, tab. 2, fig. 5, ♂ (*Goetymes*), Port Stephens.

Smaller than preceding, pale fulvous, head and thorax more finely punctured, the latter with a cruciform impression on disk.

3. *pictipes*, Blackburn, Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Austral., XXIII, 1899, p. 69, ♂ (*Goetymes*), Melbourne.

Half the length of *Hopei*, black, head and thorax closely and rather strongly punctulate, the latter transverse, canaliculate, elytra light brown, tibiae and tarsi yellow.

4. *minor*, Champion, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., 1895, p. 274, tab. 6, fig. 11, ♀⁴ (*Sitarida*), Hobart (Tasmania).

Much smaller than preceding, head and thorax closely punctate (but with vertex sparsely so, and occiput almost smooth), vertex broadly and abruptly raised, subtruncate at summit, thorax strongly transverse, with two smooth transverse tubercular elevations on disk; legs very slender.

The following artificial table, based on the thoracic characters, may aid in separating the above forms:

A. Thorax canaliculate.

Thorax transverse, coarsely and rather strongly
punctulate..... ♂ *pictipes*.

AA. Thorax not canaliculate.

a. Thorax subtrigonal, sides slightly rounded.

a. Thorax coarsely punctured..... ♀ *Hopei*.

aa. Thorax more finely punctured, and with cruciform
impression on disk..... ♂ *flavicornis*.

aa. Thorax strongly transverse.

Thorax closely punctate, and with two smooth transverse
tubercular elevations on disk..... ♀ *minor*.

4. Champion gives his insect as a male, but judging from his description and figure (I have not seen his type), I think this must be a mistake. If his determination of the sex should prove to be correct, it would necessitate the erection of a new genus.