

Homothetus fossilis.

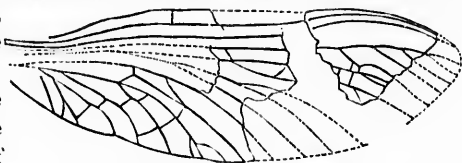
On account mainly of a transverse vein near the base of the wing, which I considered homologous with the areculus of modern Odonata, while almost every other feature of the wing was distinctively non-Odonate and generally Sialidan, I looked on this as the type of a distinct synthetic group, which I called Homothetidae, a family "forming the connecting link between the Neuroptera proper and Pseudoneuroptera."

Dr. Hagen, who has not seen the single original, says, "It is obvious that the wing belongs to the Sialina," and explains the so-called areculus as the end of a horny basal part of the wing, such as is seen in *Corydalis*. "The fragment," he says, "shows nothing foreign to the *Corydalis* type, excepting a smaller number of transversals."

The re-examination of this form after a special study of a considerable number of later paleozoic wings, some of which agree tolerably closely in general structure with *Homothetus*, apart from the supposed areculus in the latter, convinces me that I have been mistaken about this areculus. I find, indeed, that, when more closely scrutinized it just fails of reaching the scapular vein above, and that, what I strangely overlooked before, it is elevated, while the other veins about it are depressed; it lies, indeed, at a slightly higher level on the stone than the others, on a piece which shows a fracture farther away from the base of the wing, where the first separation of what I then considered the main scapular branch and the externomedian vein takes place. Upon this elevated piece that portion of the supposed branch lying between the so-called areculus and this separation is placed, and if we discard one we discard also the other; that is, these veins do not amalgamate at their base and curve downward (in passing baseward), but, as a closer examination shows, feebly and uncertainly it is true, both run parallel to each other and are separated by a slight interval, while the supposed obliquely curving basal amalgamation is something foreign to the wing, as, indeed, is shown by its also being elevated and not depressed.

Examined with this new light to seek for the basal attachments of the branching veins, a few faint indications, over that part of the fossil from which the wing has been flaked off (represented in the published drawing by dotted lines), show that there are, between what I formerly called the externomedian vein and the main scapular vein, two separate, parallel, longitudinal veins; moreover, that what I had looked upon as the basal part of the so-called externomedian vein is really only the edge of a flake of stone, beneath which, at a slightly lower point, this vein passes, the vein being unseen further toward the base than where the cross-vein strikes it.

If, then, within the basal fourth of the wing, between the stout scapular vein, and the so-called externomedian vein (which itself lies lower than indicated in the original drawing), there are two parallel, longitudinal veins, it is highly probable that the upper of them is directly connected with the vein which strikes the tip of the wing and carries several subequidistant, considerably oblique branches; and the lower with the vein or veins carrying the entire set of more longitudinal branches, between the preceding and what was formerly called the externomedian vein, somewhat in the manner I have indicated on



Homothetus fossilis. Corrected sketch.