

A NEW SOUTH AMERICAN GENUS OF CONOPINAE.

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Hitherto but a single genus (*Conops*) of this group has received general acceptance among dipterologists. A second genus, *Physocephala*, was based by Schiner on characters in themselves of but little importance, and which I did not deem sufficient to separate our species in the first paper I published* on the North American forms. A further study, however, convinced me that they were sufficiently constant to warrant their use, particularly in connection with other important ones in the neururation, which I pointed out.† I have recently had the opportunity of studying sixteen South American species of the two genera, collected by Mr. Herbert H. Smith, and I am yet more convinced of the validity of *Physocephala* as a genus.

A half dozen genera that Rondani attempted to establish (to say nothing of Lioy's fanciful productions) were based upon such confessedly trivial characters that they have no where commanded any attention by entomologists, save by Rondani's devoted follower, Mr. Bigot, who, in his last paper‡ on this family, while rejecting *Physocephala*, accepts *Brachyglossum* Rond., based upon the comparative lengths of the proboscis. I do not think Mr. Bigot's views will receive the approbation of many dipterologists.

The only other genus which presents any claims for acceptance is *Pleurocerina* Macq., which I suspect was based upon an accidental malformation, the more so as I have seen several specimens of *Conops* and *Zodion* with a very similar projection of the front, springing from the frontal lunule, and due to some artificial cause. I am not aware that the type species, described from Tasmania, has been recognized since its original description, and I think the genus had better be held in abeyance till specimens are again examined.

The sub-family *Conopinac*, then, consists of two genera, to which I here add the third, distinguished from the closely allied *Conops* by excellent structural characters.

*Trans. Conn. Acad., iv., 327.

†Ibid., vi., 388.

‡Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr., 1887, 31.