

stated, and was so far ignored, that Bigot, in his monographic essay on "*Acanthomeridæ*," has proposed a separate genus for the male sex. The only comparative statement about the structure of the male and female antennæ we possess is that of Wiedemann (in the description of *A. vittata*), and that is not very clear: "beim ♂ viel kürzer und bei weitem nicht so deutlich geringelt, als beim ♀, der Endgriffel nicht ein Viertel der Länge erreichend."

The antennæ of *Acanthomera* consist:—1, of the two-jointed scapus; 2, of a flattened compound joint of seven segments, the first of which is the longest; 3, of the style. In the male of many species the compound joint has the shape of a flat disc, rounded at the base, more or less attenuated at the distal end; in most cases its ending is abrupt; the setiform style, considerably longer than the compound joint, is inserted upon it. But in other species the compound joint of the male does not end abruptly, but tapers gradually into a point, which merges into the last joint, corresponding to the style. *A. picta*, Wiedem., male, and several undescribed or unnamed species which I have seen in collections have such antennæ. It is very probable that species will be found forming the transition between the two forms.

The antennæ of the female are very like the antennæ of the second form of the male, only distinctly broader; the flattened, tapering, compound joint gradually merges into a long terminal joint, corresponding to the style in the male, but comparatively stouter and less setiform. The sutures between the segments of the compound joint are more or less distinctly marked in different species, and are characteristic of the species.

Bigot established the genus *Megalemyia* (Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. 1881, p. 455) on those *Acanthomeræ* which have a disciform compound joint with a setiform style at the tip, that is on specimens of the male sex only. His *Megalemyia seticornis* is the male of the species which, in the same paper, he describes as *Acanthomera rubriventris*, ♀, n. sp.

Wiedemann mentions the subfemoral spine on the hind femora as a character of the genus *Acanthomera*, and even derives the generic name from it. In reality, the minority of the species only have a spine; and among the three species described by Wiedemann himself in his first volume, *A. vittata* has none. It remains to be ascertained whether this spine is a constant character in those species in which it appears, or whether its presence depends on the development of individuals, so that in some specimens it may be wanting; also whether its development in both sexes is equally strong. The presence of this spine is difficult to ascertain in cases when it is small and concealed among the hair on the underside of the femora. In order to discover its presence or absence, it may be necessary sometimes to detach the leg and to rub the under surface of the femur with the tip of one's finger. This difficulty must be borne in mind in identifying descriptions.

There is another spine at the end of the femur, in a line with its longitudinal axis, on the outer side; when small it may be sometimes overlooked on account of the tibia