

i. 1, t. 20. f. 3 *b*); in the female they are much stouter, and the end is curved. But I have seen in the collection of the Berlin Museum a large female *Acanthomera* from Brazil, unnamed, dark-coloured like my *A. championi*; it has the last joint of the palpi button- or club-shaped, and a beak-like protuberance on the face. Must it be taken for a *Rhaphiorhynchus*?

If all the *Acanthomeræ* existing in European collections could be brought together, it would perhaps be an easy matter to draw comparative descriptions, and to unravel the confusion now existing in books and collections. Until such a monographic work is rendered possible, the hints and remarks which I have given, the result of notes taken for several years past in the principal museums of Europe, may be of use to the future describers of new species; nevertheless it will remain a difficult task to describe new *Acanthomeridæ*.

The species of this family hitherto found occur within the tropics, in South America and Mexico. I have never seen specimens from the West Indies, nor are any mentioned in existing publications; two specimens in the British Museum are labelled "Trinidad," an island which is so near the coast of South America that, zoo-geographically, it forms a part of that continent. The statement that Thunberg's *Pantophthalmus tabaninus* comes from the West Indies, therefore, still requires confirmation.

Mr. Champion tells me that *Acanthomeræ* are found in the forests, alighting on trunks of trees.

RHAPHIORHYNCHUS.

Rhaphiorhynchus, Wiedemann, Dipt. Exot. p. 59 (1821).

1. *Rhaphiorhynchus planiventris*.

Rhaphiorhynchus planiventris, Wiedem. Dipt. Ex. p. 60; id. Aussereur. zweifl. Ins. i. p. 106, t. 1. f. 4 & ii. p. 622¹.

(?) *Rhaphiorhynchus planiventris*, Macq. Dipt. Ex. i. 1, p. 170, t. 20. f. 3 (♂).

Acanthomera bigoti, Bellardi, Saggio &c. App. p. 16, f. 10 (♀)².

Acanthomera crassipalpis, Macq. Dipt. Ex. Suppl. ii. p. 27, t. 1. f. 3; Bigot, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. 1881, p. 458 (*Rhaphiorhynchus*) (♀)³.

Hab. MEXICO, Chinantla (*Sallé*)²; GUATEMALA³; PANAMA, Bugaba, Volcan de Chiriqui (*Champion*).—GUIANA, Surinam¹; BRAZIL.

I have a male (from Chiriqui) and a female (from Bugaba); the female is much darker in the colour of the thorax; the venter is dark brown, which colour is also seen from the upperside as a narrow margin of the abdomen; the palpi of the female are much stouter than in the male, and the end is curved; the fusiform palpi of the male end in a straight point (correctly represented by Macquart, Dipt. Ex. t. 20. fig. 3 *b*). The second posterior cell is almost closed in the male (as Bellardi figures it), and much more open in the female; this character seems to be variable (*cf.* Macq. Dipt. Ex. i. 1, p. 170).