

TANYDERUS PICTUS PHILIPPI

(Fam. Tanyderidae, Ord. Diptera)

By

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The superb fly described by Philippi (1865) as *Tanyderus pictus* has long remained one of the rarest and most desirable species in the family. Philippi's unique type is apparently no longer in existence and it therefore of more than ordinary interest to record the occurrence of a second specimen.

I am very greatly indebted to Doctor Edwyn P. Reed for the gift of this beautiful fly. The specimen, a female, was taken near Concepción, Chile, presumably between 1892 and 1894 by Mr. Edwyn C. Reed, who, with Philippi, must always rank as the great pioneer in the study of Chilean Diptera. Philippi's type of *pictus* was taken at Los Ulmos, Valdivia, altitude about 800 to 1000 feet, March 1865, by Philippi, and was believed by him to be a male (1865: 780). Osten Sacken (1869:318) considered the possibility that the type specimen was a female rather than a male, a contention that is supported somewhat by the insufficient figure of this region of the body, as given by Philippi. The specimen on hand is undoubtedly a female and from its much greater size, I would believe that the holotype of *pictus* was really a male, as stated by the describer. I am therefore defining the present specimen as allotype.

The accession of the present material demonstrates that there is an error in Philippi's description and figure of the wing in the omission of a supernumerary crossvein in cell *R*5, a fact that has had its influence on all succeeding keys to the family (Alexander, 1913,

1927, 1928, 1929). In all cases, the keys should be worded to indicate that there are supernumerary crossveins in cells *R4* and *R5*, rather than in cell *R4* alone. This combination of crossveins separates the genus *Tanyderus* from all other members of the family.

Tanyderus is closest to *Radinoderus* Handlirsch in the short fusion of veins $R^2-|-3-|-4$, differing conspicuously from this group in the supernumerary crossveins of the radial field.

The allotype female here described is in somewhat poor condition, the antennae being broken beyond the second flagellar segment; only a part of a single leg persisting; and the apices of the cerci of the ovipositor being broken.

Allotype.—Female. Length about 35 millimeters; wing 31.5 millimeters.

Mouthparts relatively short, only a little longer than the frontal prolongation. Antennal scape black, the flagellum yellow, broken beyond the second segment. Head and cervical region darkcolored.

Pronotum orange, with a pentagonal dark brown central area, the lateral margins narrowly dark brown. Mesonotal praescutum with the ground-color yellow, the surface largely covered by four grayish black stripes that are narrowly bordered by blackish, the stripes nearly confluent, the intermediate pair narrowly separated in front. Humeral region with a few long, conspicuous, erect setae; scutum with the median and posterior areas yellow, the remainder of each lobe chiefly covered by a large darkened area; scutellum chiefly dark brown; postnotal mediotergite yellow, with geminate darkened areas on the posterior half. Pleura chiefly dark brown, variegated with paler, the dorsal two-thirds of the sternopleurite conspicuously orange-yellow. Halteres yellow, the knobs dark brown. Legs with the coxae dark plumbeous brown; trochanters dark brown; legs broken, except for a part of the posterior leg; femora brownish yellow, the tips narrowly vaguely paler; tibiae yellow, broken at near one-third

the length. Wings subhyaline, extensively tinged with yellow in the central portions of the disk; the pattern is quite as figured by Philippi, bright yellow, narrowly margined with brown, the central portions again slightly darkened along the crossveins and deflections of veins traversed; prearcular region more uniformly darkened. Anal angle very pronounced but scarcely

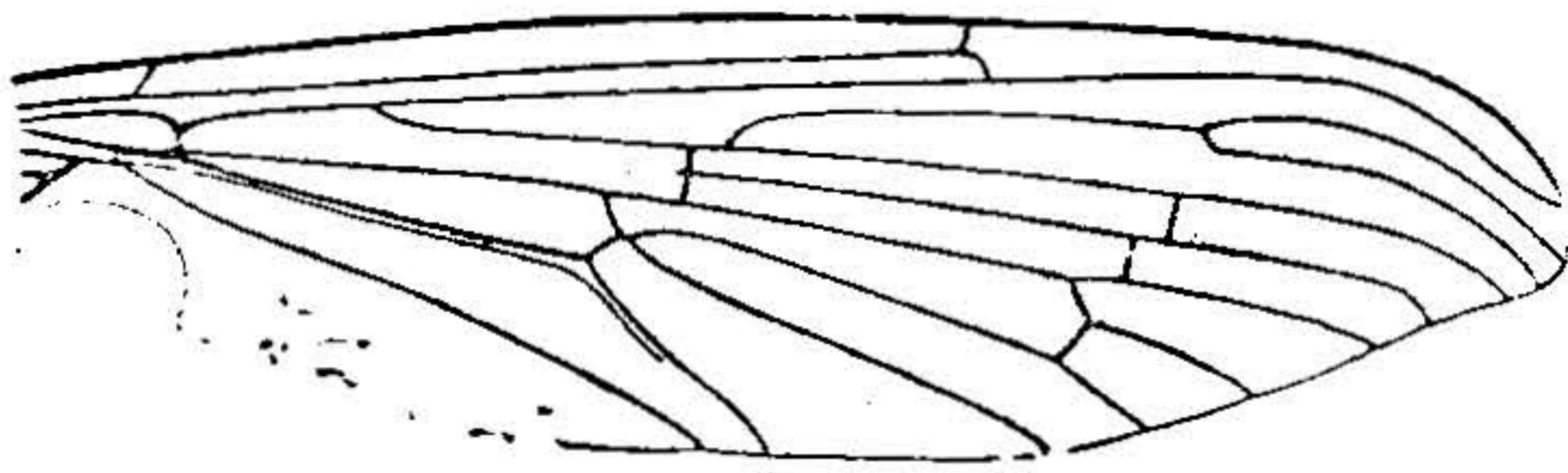


Fig. 24. — *Tanyderus pictus* Philippi: Wing of allotype.

as acute as figured by Philippi. Venation Text-figure): R5 in alignment with *r-m*, subequal to $R^2-|-3-|-4$, a condition very similar to the genus *Radinoderus*; supernumerary crossveins in cells R4 and R5, in oblique alignment with the outer end of cell 1st M2.

Abdominal tergites orange; basal segment with four black spots forming a rectangular pattern; succeeding tergites with the median and caudal portions somewhat brownish gray, the lateral portion intense black with a conspicuous oblique orange vitta; sternites with the basal portion buffy, variegated with four conspicuous blackened areas, at near midlength the segment brightening to orange, the terminal third more brownish gray.

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