

THE GENERIC STATUS OF LAGARUS PHILIPPI (STRATIOMYIDAE)

BY

C. H. CURRAN

American Musseum of Nat. Hist., N. Y.

In his treatment of the American genera related to *Chiro-myza* Wiedemann, Bezzi considered *Lagarus* to be a synonym of *Chyromyza*, following Hardy in this disposition of Philippi's genus. Inasmuch as some of the species of *Chiro-myza* possess a basally petiolate fourth longitudinal vein there might seem to be excellent reasons for uniting the two genera but other characters indicate that both are valid.

In this closely related group of genera some of the characters frequently used for generic separation are of little value. The eyes may be either contiguous or separated in the males but no character is available for the separation of the females. The eyes are haired in both sexes but the hair may be short and sparse and difficult to see. This fact has led to the description of several species characterized as having the eyes bare. The length of the third antennal segment is extremely variable, the annulated portion being short or long and the annulations strong to weak.

Lagarus comes in the group in which the third antennal

segment is short and of almost equal width, being only gently tapering. There are three distinct annules in the segment, the apical two not conspicuously narrower than the basal as is the case in many of the species of *Chiromyza*.

One of the chief characters distinguishing *Lagarus* from *Chiromyza* is found in the face. In *Chiromyza* the middle of the face is sunken and relatively narrow, the cheeks being correspondingly narrow. In *Lagarus* the middle of the face is broad, not sunken and clothed with rather long hair, as compared with the almost bare middle of the face in *Chiromyza*. The prosternum in *Lagarus* is very deeply sulcate in the middle and the sides are not flanged immediately in front of the coxae. In *Chiromyza* the prosternum is less deeply grooved and is flared upward more or less strongly in front of the coxae. While we cannot consider sexual characters as of generic importance, the fact remains that in *Lagarus* the posterior tarsi of the male are rather strongly swollen and are shorter than in the species of *Chiromyza* I have seen.

In *Lagarus* the discal cell is never (so far as known) indicated, and while it is usually fully closed in most specimens of *Chiromyza* there are others in which it is partly open. In the species in which this condition occurs the cell may be open in one wing and closed in the other and the fourth vein may be pedicellate in one wing and not in the other.

There are three obvious characters for the separation of *Lagarus* and *Chiromyza* — the shape of the face, structure of the propleura and the wing venation. Other characters cannot be considered of importance.

