

# AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Published by  
Number 1260 THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY August 17, 1944  
New York City

## NOTES ON THE PROTODONATA AND PROTOZYGOPTERA OF THE LOWER PERMIAN OF KANSAS

BY ELSIE BROUGHTON KLOTS<sup>1</sup>

A collection of insects from the Permian beds at Elmo, Kansas, made in the summer of 1933 by Alexander B. Klots, V. S. L. Pate, and W. D. Sargent for Ward's Natural Science Establishment of Rochester, New York, included a few Protodonata and ProtozYGoptera. These, although few in number, were mute but conclusive evidence of the considerable degree of confusion which existed regarding the true nature of several of the species within that group. Through the courtesy and cooperation of Professor E. H. Sellards of the University of Texas, Dr. Carl O. Dunbar of the Peabody Museum at Yale University, and Dr. Reginald Painter of Kansas State College, I was able to make the comparisons that affirmed my suspicions that *Tupus permianus*, *Tupus readi*, *Kennedyia mirabilis*, and *Progoneura minuta* had been incorrectly interpreted, and that those errors had been further enhanced by inaccurate drawings. Most of these errors have now been corrected (Carpenter, 1939), and new and helpful material has been described. I should like to add a few notes which I think are of value concerning my material.

The venational terminology employed by Carpenter is followed here. Mistakes may easily be made in translation from one system to another; one author, in his discussion of the genus *Tupus*, refers to his  $R_{4+5}$  (the  $R_5$  of Tillyard and  $M_3$  of Comstock-Needham) as  $R_3$ , as  $R_{3+4}$ , as  $R_5$ , and as  $R_{4+5}$ .

All the material mentioned in this paper except those specimens actually belonging to other people or institutions has been placed in the Department of Insects and Spiders, the American Museum of Natural History.

### *Tupus*<sup>2</sup> permianus Sellards

It is to be recalled that when Sellards described this species (1906) he pointed out the presence of oblique veins at the fork of vein  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  ( $M_1$  and  $M_2$ ) and of a longitudinal intercalary or supplementary vein behind  $R_3$ . He compared these oblique veins with the *subnodal* and *oblique* veins of the Odonata and the intercalary sector with the *bridge* plus the *radial sector*. He considered their presence a substantiation of the Comstock-Needham theory of the crossing over of the radial sector and sufficient cause for making the Protodonata a subordinate group of the order Odonata. Tillyard (1925), upon examination of a photograph of *permianus* sent to him by Sellards, was unable to see any sign of the alleged oblique veins and restored the Protodonata to ordinal rank. Carpenter (1931) redescribed *permianus* from six specimens in the Harvard collection and from sketches and a photograph of the type. His drawing did not show the oblique veins, and we now know that he had no specimens with that portion of the wing preserved.

I think it is rather significant that of the six specimens I have seen of *Tupus* all show one or both of these veins present. Although the type of *permianus* remains lost we can feel confident that Sellards was correct in his description of this detail as he has been proved to be in the others.

I do not consider, as did Sellards, however, that their presence is a substantiation of the Comstock-Needham theory of the

<sup>2</sup> The genus *Tupus* was established by Sellards (1905, Amer. Jour. Sci., ser. 4, vol. 22, p. 249). In a note in that same journal for 1909, ser. 4, vol. 27, p. 151, in which he changes the name of several genera, he writes "... *Tupus* should read *Typus*." According to Articles 19 and 32 of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature (1926, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 39, pp. 35-104), the name should remain in its original form.

<sup>1</sup> Finch Junior College, New York City.

crossing over of the radial sector but rather that it has significant bearing on the refutation of that theory. It is hardly credible that, had the crossing over been accomplished and the proximal bracing by the bridge completed, portions of the strong radial sector would have occasionally dropped out, as seems to be the case in those of my specimens in which the subnodal is present and the oblique is missing (fig. 1); or that the trachea would follow the zigzag course indicated when the subnodal is well distal to the fork (figs. 2, 3). If we consider this material as dating from the period when the Protodonata were all unwittingly experimenting with various devices for support and increased wing efficiency and had yet to stumble upon

base, divergent to the level of the origin of  $R_s$ , then convergent towards the apex of the wing. Sc extending out on the wing well beyond the limits of the preserved portion.  $R_s+M$  forking from  $R_1$  at a distance of 20 mm. from the base of the wing and one cell beyond the origin of MA.  $R_{4+5}$  originating at a distance of 48 mm. from the base of the wing or only about half as far from the base of  $R_s$  as from the origin of  $R_3$  which is 101 mm. from the base of the wing. A sector between  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  rises six cells beyond the fork. An intercalary vein rising behind  $R_{2+3}$  at a point 86.5 mm. from the base of the wing is at first irregular, then in a few cells straightens out and becomes a strong convex vein paralleling  $R_{2+3}$  for a distance of



Fig. 1. Fragment, probably *Tupus*, showing "subnodal" vein at origin of vein  $R_3$ .

or to evolve the nodal region of modern Odonata, how natural it would be to find the weak cross veins variable as to location in relation to the wing axis as well as in their actual presence or absence.

#### ***Tupus readi* Carpenter**

My collection includes two beautifully preserved portions and several small fragments which agree with the corrected description of *readi* (Carpenter, 1939). Since more of the wing area is shown than has hitherto been described, I include them here.

The large specimen (fig. 4) is 124 mm. in length. Precostal space short, extending but little beyond the second cross vein between C and Sc. C and Sc remote at the

about four cells, and then slightly diverges from it to run parallel to  $R_3$ . A strong oblique cross vein between  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  just after the origin of  $R_3$  is in line with another oblique vein between  $R_3$  and the intercalary vein.  $R_{4+5}$  is unbranched. Two cell rows between the intercalary vein and  $R_{4+5}$  at the level of the origin of  $R_3$ , the lower row slightly wider than the upper. MA and  $R_s$  at first divergent and then convergent toward the origin of  $R_{4+5}$ ; MA then continues parallel to  $R_{4+5}$ . The first branch of MA rises 20 mm. or about 11 cells beyond the origin of  $R_{4+5}$ . Obsolescent base of  $Cu_1$  present.  $Cu_2$  unbranched, strongly undulate. Two oblique veins present between  $Cu_2$  and A in the region of the anal crossing, slightly

more than halfway from the base of the wing to the origin of 2d A; each of these oblique veins is considerably stronger than a normal cross vein. First A less strongly sigmoid than  $Cu_2$ , pectinately branched apically. Second A originating at the level of the origin of  $R_s+M$ . Anal angle of the wing angulate and characterized by the presence of greatly elongated

tion, measuring 111 mm., is larger. The "subnodal" vein is present and is two and a half cells before the origin of  $R_s$ , but the "oblique" is not present. The space between the origin of  $R_s$  and the vein  $R_{4+5}$  is greater than in the other material due to the unusual height of the cell row just above  $R_{4+5}$ . The first branch of MA rises nearer the level of the origin of  $R_{4+5}$ , the

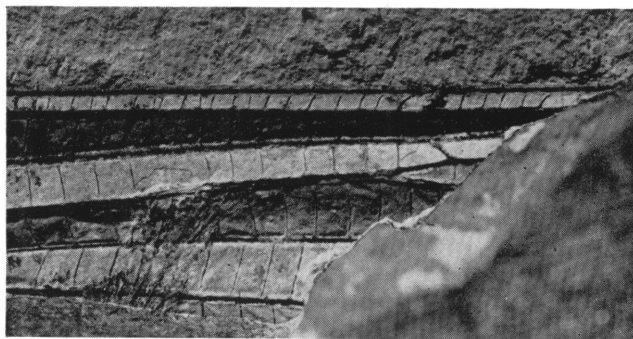


Fig. 2. Fragment, probably *Tupus*, showing "subnodal" vein beyond origin of vein  $R_s$ .

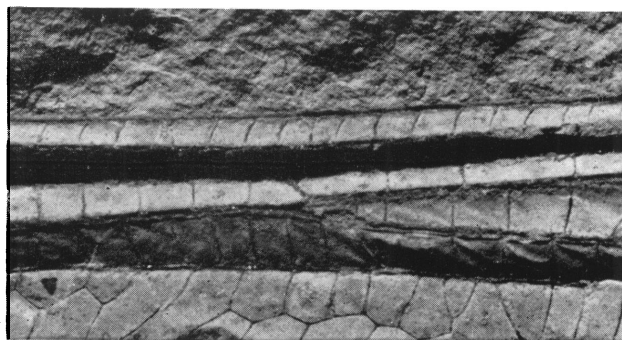


Fig. 3. *Tupus readi* Carpenter. Enlargement of portion of figure 4 showing "subnodal" and "oblique" veins beyond the origin of  $R_s$ .

cells extending from the anal vein to the wing margin for a distance of 10 cells.

My specimens differ from Carpenter's corrected figure of *readi* only in the presence of the oblique veins at the origin of  $R_s$  (fig. 4), in the slightly more proximal position of  $R_{4+5}$ , and in the presence of the oblique veins in the region of the anal crossing.

Another specimen (fig. 5) in this collec-

tion, measuring 11 mm., is larger. The relation of 2d A with the parallel veins on either side is more like *Tupus* at the level of the fork of  $R_{4+5}$  than it is like *Megatypus*. But now that we know of the error in the definition of *Megatypus* in regard to the supposed distal origin of  $R_{4+5}$ , it is difficult to distinguish between these two genera when only this area of the wing is available.

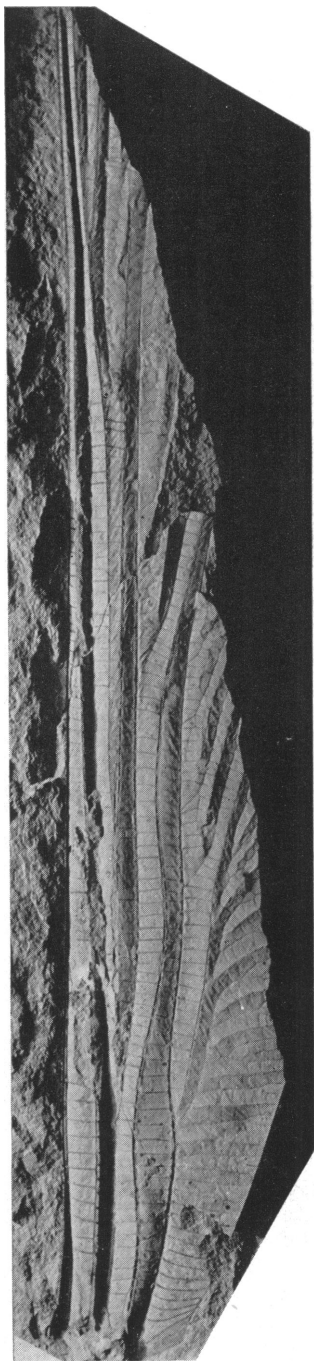


Fig. 4. *Tupus readi* Carpenter.



Fig. 5. *Tupus readi* Carpenter.

In the collection of the Kansas State College at Manhattan, Kansas, there is a fine wing collected by J. W. McCulloch which is also of this species. It is slightly smaller than the type. The first branch of MA rises 10 mm. or seven cells beyond the origin of  $R_{4+5}$ .

These three specimens differ from the type in size, but the difference is not inconsistent with individual variation. That portion of the wing extending from the apex of the second arch of  $Cu_2$  to the origin of  $R_3$  (taken because it is the only portion comparable in the four specimens) measures, respectively, 52, 66, and 43 mm.

lowers the curve of the wing tip and arches strongly downward. Sc fuses with the costa before the origin of  $R_{4+5}$ . Vein  $R_1$  approaches the costa rather abruptly about one-third of the way between the origin of  $R_{4+5}$  and the apex of the wing, and from that point vein C seems to form a thickened cord-like border to the wing. This thickening may be due to a folding under of the wing margin, but its ridge-like quality makes that seem unlikely. An oblique cross vein lies between veins  $R_1$  and  $R_{2+3}$  at a point about halfway between the approximation of  $R_1$  and C and the apex of the wing. The recurrence of

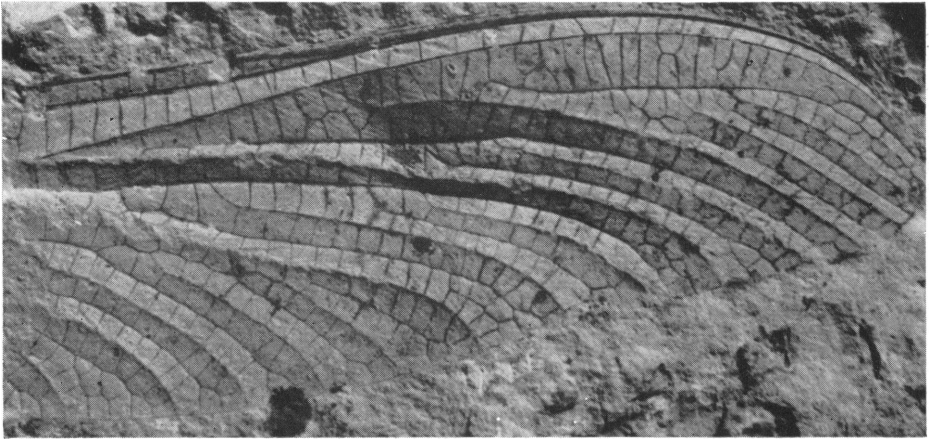


Fig. 6. *Oligotypus tillyardi* Carpenter.

The specimens that I have seen of *T. readi* do not show the hooking of the vein tips which is so conspicuous in the photograph of the type of *permanus* sent to me by Sellards. The drawing of *M. vetustus* (Carpenter, 1933, p. 416), later identified as *permanus* (Carpenter, 1939), does not show it either, but this may be the artist's error.

#### ***Oligotypus tillyardi* Carpenter**

One of my specimens, measuring 24 mm. from the origin of  $R_{4+5}$  to the apex of the wing, is probably of this species (fig. 6). The apex is considerably more rounded than that shown in the figure of the type (Carpenter, 1931, p. 107). Vein  $R_2$  fol-

lows the curve of the wing tip and arches strongly downward. Sc fuses with the costa before the origin of  $R_{4+5}$ . Vein  $R_1$  approaches the costa rather abruptly about one-third of the way between the origin of  $R_{4+5}$  and the apex of the wing, and from that point vein C seems to form a thickened cord-like border to the wing. This thickening may be due to a folding under of the wing margin, but its ridge-like quality makes that seem unlikely. An oblique cross vein lies between veins  $R_1$  and  $R_{2+3}$  at a point about halfway between the approximation of  $R_1$  and C and the apex of the wing. The recurrence of

#### ***Kennedya mirabilis* Tillyard**

The drawing that accompanies the original description of the type of this species (Tillyard, 1925, p. 64, fig. 10) differs slightly from the photograph of the same specimen published in the same article (p. 67, fig. 12A). A second and composite drawing published later (Tillyard, 1928, p. 163, fig. 6) shows still greater dissimilarity

to the photograph. A copy of this second drawing (Carpenter, 1931, p. 117, fig. 4) has further increased the discrepancies and has created a misunderstanding regarding the true nature of the genus. A more recent drawing (Carpenter, 1939, p. 46) is more accurate.

I have examined the type of *Kennedyia mirabilis*, Specimen No. 5006 a-b, in the Yale University collection and wish to emphasize the following facts regarding it. Veins Sc and C converge at equal obliquities to form the nodus, as described by Tillyard, but do not make a distinct break in the costa as his and subsequent drawings indicate. Vein  $R_1$  curves slightly upward at its origin, although viewed from

mm. in the type is but 18 mm. long in this specimen. It agrees with the type except that the costa is more nearly straight and that vein  $R_s$  is slightly less arched at its origin.

***Kennedyia* (*Progoneura*) *minuta***  
Carpenter

*Kennedyia mirabilis* and *Progoneura minuta* are distinguished by characters of degree and not of difference, and I believe that they can no longer be considered as of separate genera. The costa of *minuta* is straight at the nodus, the costa of the type of *mirabilis* is less broken than the author of *minuta* believed it to be, and in the specimen of *mirabilis* in my collection it is even

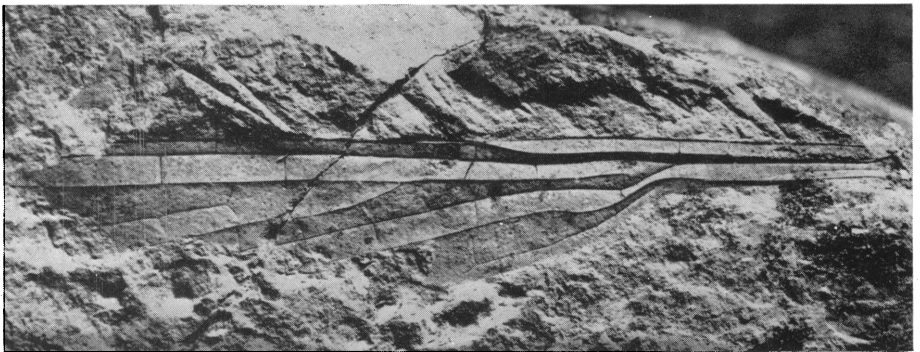


Fig. 7. *Kennedyia*.

some angles this upward bend is imperceptible.  $R_s$  originates more than halfway down on the arculus and arches upward at its origin rather more abruptly than figured hitherto. MA is deflected at the point of the cross vein m-cu and does not follow the curve of the arculus.  $Cu_2$  does not follow a straight course through the petiole but is slightly undulate. First A rises at the apex of the undulation of  $Cu_2$  and diverges from it gradually, forming a long, triangular subquadangle with anterior and posterior sides curved as described by Tillyard.

A specimen in my collection having the preserved portion of the wing measuring 29 mm. (fig. 7) is somewhat smaller than the type, for a portion measuring 25.6

more like that of *minuta*. Vein  $R_1$  in *minuta* is almost straight at its origin; in *mirabilis* it curves but slightly and at some angles appears to be straight. Vein  $R_s$  in the type of *minuta* is nearly straight at its origin and rises at the middle of the arculus. This I had thought to be a true difference between the two species, but Carpenter has a new specimen of *minuta* (1939) which shows the location and manner of origin of  $R_s$  to be nearly identical with that of *mirabilis*. The deflection of MA, the undulation of  $Cu_2$  within the petiole, and the shape of the subquadangle are seen now to be similar also.

There is in my collection a specimen (fig. 8) which I had determined as *minuta* because of its small size. The preserved

portion of the wing measures 16 mm., while the corresponding portion of the larger wing described above as *mirabilis* measures 26 mm. But Carpenter (1939) has now shown that size is not a criterion. This leaves only the length of 1st A as a point of difference between them. In *mirabilis*, 1st A surmounts five and one-half cells (Carpenter, 1939) beyond the quadrangle, and in *minuta* it surmounts only one cell. This seems like a significant difference,

until we find that *K. tillyardi* has been described (Carpenter, 1939) as having 1st A surmounting three and one-half cells, that my larger specimen (fig. 7) has it surmounting two and one-half cells, and that my smaller one (fig. 8) has it surmounting one and one-half cells. It remains, then, to determine whether *mirabilis* and *minuta* are the same or whether each of the known specimens should be described as a separate species.

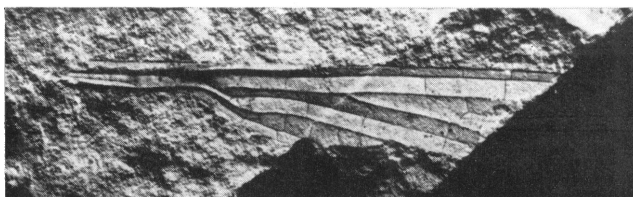


Fig. 8. *Kennedyia*.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

##### CARPENTER, FRANK M.

- 1931. The Lower Permian insects of Kansas. Part 2. Amer. Jour. Sci., ser. 5, vol. 21, pp. 97-139, figs. 1-6.
- 1933. The Lower Permian insects of Kansas. Part 6. Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts Sci., vol. 68, pp. 411-503, figs. 1-29, pl. 1.
- 1939. The Lower Permian insects of Kansas. Part 8. *Ibid.*, vol. 73, pp. 29-70, figs. 1-27, pls. 1-2.
- 1943. The Lower Permian insects of Kansas. Part 9. *Ibid.*, vol. 75, pp. 55-84, figs. 1-15, pl. 1.

##### SELLARDS, E. H.

- 1906. Types of Permian insects. Amer. Jour. Sci., ser. 4, vol. 22, pp. 249-258, figs. 1-8.

##### TILLYARD, R. J.

- 1925. Kansas Permian insects. Part V. The orders Protodonata and Odonata. Amer. Jour. Sci., ser. 5, vol. 10, pp. 41-73, figs. 1-14.
- 1928. The evolution of the order Odonata. Part I. Introduction and early history of the order. Rec. Indian Mus., vol. 30, pp. 151-172, figs. 1-10.

