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cross-vein (in first posterior cell) situated a little beyond the
discal, great cross-vein before the middle of the latter; sixth
longitudinal vein nearly straight.
Hab.—Dunoon, Upper Richmond River, N. S. Wales (Helms).
Three specimens in March.

STEPHANOCTRICUS, Sk.: A REJOINDER.

Mr. Carl F. Baker omitted to include a diagnosis of my genus
in his table of the genera of the Pulicidae as he evidently
first wished to "verify all the points of the description" by
the examination of actual specimens. I would explain that the
flea in question was taken in large numbers on one animal,
Dasyurus maculatus, Kerr, and that there is no mistake in
attributing the two sexes figured in my paper to one species. It
would possibly not conform with Mr. Baker's preconceived
system of classification of what he calls "Siphonaptera." Before
essaying the task of reconstructing existing classification it is
usual for the reformer to make himself acquainted with the
literature bearing on the subject. Mr. Baker, however, discusses
my conclusions at second hand and without attention to the
numerous figures upon which I relied to elucidate my meaning.
Under these circumstances it is scarcely fair in him to condemn
my article as confusing together two species referable to known
genera. What genera they should be referred to, Mr. Baker,
exercising more discretion than valour, fails to indicate. It is at
least remarkable that one supposed species should be all males
and the other all females. Were such the case they might pro-
duce a hybrid in consonance with Mr. Baker's classification.

There is a tale extant of a conchologist who elaborated a
classification of Mollusca; one shell however, which refused to fall
in line with his system was promptly disposed of under his heel,
to save further trouble. It would appear that my Stephanocircus
merits a similar sad fate.

In conclusion I might mention that a very remarkable flea was
described from Australia by Olliff, under the name of Echidno-
phaga ambulans (from the peculiar character of its inability to
jump), but no notice is taken of this insect in Mr. Baker's papers.

F. A. A. SKUSE.

† Rec. Austr. Mus., ii., p. 77, pl. xvii.
‡ Strong evidence is furnished by Mr. Baker, himself, when he affirms
(i.e., p. 132), "It is not a usual occurrence for two species of fleas to be
found living together on a single wild animal," that there is no error in
my data.
§ Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., (2) i., p. 172, (1886).