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A NEW SPECIES OF THREAD-WINGED LACEWING
(FAMILY NEMOPTERIDAE, ORDER NEUROPTERA
PLANIPENNA) FROM QUEENSLAND.

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(Figure 1.)

The discovery of a new Australian species of Thread-winged Lacewing is of considerable scientific interest, especially one of such beauty and delicacy as that under review.

The family Nemopteridae contains some of the most remarkable insects to be found in the whole Order Neuroptera, and includes the Spoon-winged Lacewings (sub-family Nemopterinae) and the Thread-winged Lacewings (sub-family Crocinae). Four species have been previously recorded from Australia; two in the Nemopterinae, Chasmoptera huttii Westwood (1847) and C. superba Tillyard (1925), both from Western Australia, and two in the Crocinae, Croce attenuata Foggatt (1904) and C. longipennis Navás (1910), the former extending from Central Australia to Queensland, the latter occurring in Western Australia. The present species forms the third Australian member of the Crocinae.

Order NEUROPTERA.
Family NEMOPTERIDAE.
Sub-fam. CROCINAE.
Genus Croce MacLachlan, 1885.
Croce mira, sp. novo.

Head creamy above with four elongate brown markings on apex; rostrum creamy with a dark lateral stripe extending along genae and sides of rostrum from anterior margin of eye; eyes large, black, prominent, finely granulate; basal segments of antennae creamy-yellow, becoming clouded with brown, apical segments smoky-brown; palpi with segments banded with smoky-black.

Thorax creamy above with purplish-black markings; prothorax narrow, conical, lightly clothed with scattered stout black setae, sides gradually rounded, broadly margined with purplish-black laterally and with two small, elongate, longitudinal brown markings on anterior margin; mesothorax broad, laterally lobed, with a broad purplish-black lateral stripe and two narrow, parallel, longitudinal median stripes, broken at centre, of the same colour, base broadly emarginate; metathorax small, narrow, purplish-black with an inverted, raised cordate area of a yellow colour in its centre. Legs pale yellowish-white, thickly clothed with short, stout, black spines giving the limbs a dusky hue. Tarsi four-
Fig. 1.—Croce mira sp. nov. Outline figure indicates natural size.
N. B. Adams, del.
jointed, segment 1 long, 2-3 short, 4 as long as 2-3 together, claws large, curved, black.

Wings.—Forewing hyaline except for a small patch of fuscous on pterostigma just before distal fusion of Sc and R. Veins setulose, black except for Sc and R, which are colourless, or with a slightly yellowish tint. Costal veinlets 24 in number. After fusing distally Sc and R, run obliquely downwards to below apex, leaving a rather wide pterostigmatic area above them. Rs has eight descending branches, Cu, five and Cu,b two branches. Below Cu, + 1A is a single series of six veinlets. Apex narrowly rounded, slightly nodding. Forewing 3½ times longer than broad.

Hindwing excessively long (40 mm.) very slender and finely tapering. Basal portion for 12 mm. hyaline, with three distinct and stout veins, which I take to be Sc, R, and M, closely studded with short black setae; remainder white, setose.

Abdomen slender, cylindrical; colour creamy above, mottled and blotched with purplish-brown. Appendages very hairy, broadly forcipate, bright ferruginous. I believe the specimen to be a male.

Dimensions.—Total length of body 9 mm. Spread of wings 27 mm. Length of forewing 12½ mm. Breadth of forewing (at widest) 3½ mm. Length of hindwing 40 mm.

Female (?) similar, but abdomen rounded at extremity.

Hab.—Cunnamulla, Queensland (N. Geary), 10 November, 1938.

Holotype ♂ (?) and allotype ♀ (?) in Australian Museum, Sydney.

A very fine series of seven specimens of this beautiful insect was before me for examination.