

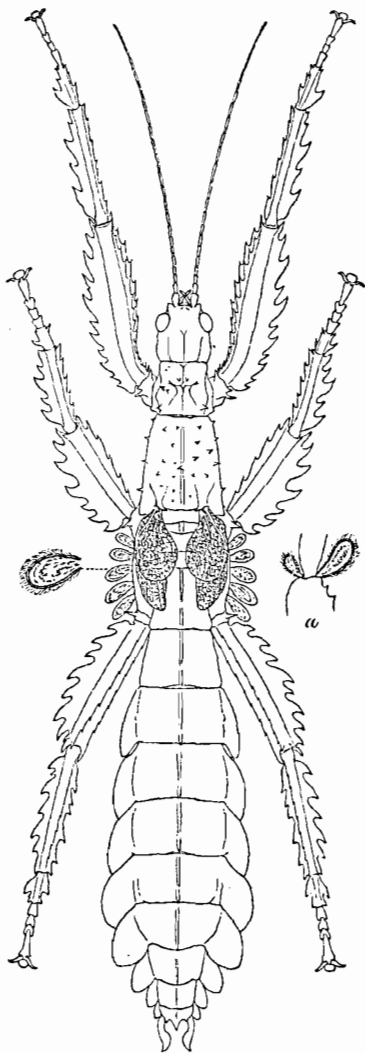
LIX.—*Observations on the supposed Semiaquatic Phasmid, Cotylosoma dipneusticum, W.-M.* By CHARLES O. WATERHOUSE.

IN the 'Annals' for 1878 (i. p. 101) the late Mr. Wood-Mason called attention to a species of Phasmidæ in the British Museum, to which he gave the name *Cotylosoma dipneusticum*, and which he suggests may be "modified for an aquatic life; for it breathes not only in the ordinary fashion amongst insects by means of tracheæ opening by stigmata on the exterior of the body, but also by the structures known as tracheal gills," &c.

Dr. David Sharp having recently asked me questions about this insect, I think it well to figure it and to call attention to the following facts:—

1. So far as I am aware, nothing is known of the habits of this species. It may or may not be aquatic.

2. The specimen is a dried one, and I think Wood-Mason in the sentence above quoted assumes too much. There is nothing in the form of the lateral plates of the metathorax to show definitely that they are "tracheal gills," although I would not, on the other hand, say that they are not. I notice, however, that an allied Brazilian insect—*Prisopus phacellus*—has very similar plates, one on each side of the insertion of the anterior tibia. For the



Cotylosoma dipneusticum.
a. Knee-joint of *Prisopus phacellus*.

supposed aquatic habits of *Prisopus* see Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1866, xviii. p. 265.

3. In the 'Zoologist' for 1860, p. 7141, MacGillivray described an insect from Aneiteum, New Hebrides, under the name of *Prisopus Carlottæ*. There is an insect in the Museum bearing this name from Aneiteum, which appears to be correctly named, but it has five lamelliform plates at the sides of the metathorax, as in *Cotylosoma*; the posterior one, however, is not visible from above, so that MacGillivray may have overlooked this when he gave the number as four. *Cotylosoma* is evidently very closely allied to MacGillivray's insect, which ought not to be placed in the American genus *Prisopus*.

4. *Cotylosoma* is from Taviuni, Fiji Islands; not Borneo, as stated in Wood-Mason's remarks.

It is not my purpose to characterize *Cotylosoma dipneusticum*; in fact it scarcely needs more than the figure.