

ART. III.—*Three New African Cicadas.*

BY HOWARD ASHTON.

(With Plate III.)

[Read 14th May, 1914].

All these species come from Central Africa, and all belong to the dominant African genus *Platypleura*. The first one, *P. nigromarginata*, is distinguished by its immensely dilated pronotal angles, being allied to Butler's *P. quadraticollis*, but differing in the lighter colour of the head and thorax, and the generally yellow venation of wings and tegmina. It is also smaller than Butler's species.

The second species, *P. sikumba*, is the smallest of this genus, I think, so far recorded from Africa. It is a very distinct little species, being placed in Distant's division of the genus, in which the tegmina and wings are wholly opaque. The only hyaline or transparent portions are the first discoidal and a small spot in the second discoidal areas, a postcostal spot in the radial area, a fascia extending along the basal halves of apical areas, except the seventh, some minute spots at the extreme apices of these areas, and the tegminal and wing margins. The general effect of the tegmina is of a broad fuscous wing, with two transparent fasciae running diagonally along the apical half.

The third species, *P. longirostris*, is closely allied to *P. adouma*, Dist., but may be at once distinguished by the yellow colouration of the wings. It somewhat resembles Walker's *P. signifera*, but differs by the fact that its tegmina and wings have no transparent spots, and that the margins, which are very narrow, are coloured right to the edge. The rostrum, also, is very much longer.

The genus *Platypleura*, besides being widely distributed over Africa, Asia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, has been recorded by Mr. W. W. Froggatt, from Northern Australia, a typical species having been taken by Mr. J. O. Tepper, and named after him.

Sub-family CICADINAE.

Division POLYNEURARIA.

Gen. PLATYPLEURA, Am. and Serv.

P. NIGROMARGINATA, n. sp.

Male.—*Head*, ochraceous, with a faint tint of green. Eyes brown, ocelli red, a slender broken black fascia between eyes, passing through region of ocelli. *Pronotum*, ochraceous, faintly greenish, central transverse fascia on anterior margin, and margins of posterior marginal area black, with broad black margins to the strongly produced lateral processes, enclosing a triangular spot on each of these produced areas. *Mesonotum* shining chocolate brown, two comma-shaped spots in centre of anterior margin, and a transverse spot, anteriorly obtusely angled in the depression before the cruciform elevation, black. Cruciform elevation with broad flattened disc, light yellowish olive. *Abdomen* shining black, sparsely greyishly pilose, with obscure central dorsal castaneous fascia, final segment brown, tip black. Head beneath obscurely ochraceous, frontal rugae castaneous, central frontal sulcus, two large spots between eyes and front, and two converging fasciae beside clypeus, black. Sternum ochraceous, marked with black, heavily pilose, pronotal lateral margins same as above, legs castaneous, with joints yellow. Abdomen beneath dull ochraceous, with central broad black longitudinal fascia. Opercula translucent brown. *Tegmina and wings* hyaline, venation ochraceous, a little fuscous at apices, slight infuscations about tegminal apical areas, including bases of same and a series of faint spots on ends of longitudinal veins. Anal areas of wings a little dusky. Head very short, not half as long as pronotum, as wide (including eyes), as pronotum and mesonotum (excluding pronotal margins), front depressed, not seen from above, flattened below, deeply centrally sulcate and laterally carinate. Rostrum yellow, darker at tip, just passing hind coxae. Opercula very square, just touching in centre.

1 male in Coll., H. A.

Length.—24 mm.; exp. teg., 80 mm.

Hab.—Africa, Entebbe, Uganda.

PLATYPLEURA SIKUMBA, n. sp.

Head brownish ochraceous, two black fasciae between eyes, one passing through base of front, the other across region of ocelli,

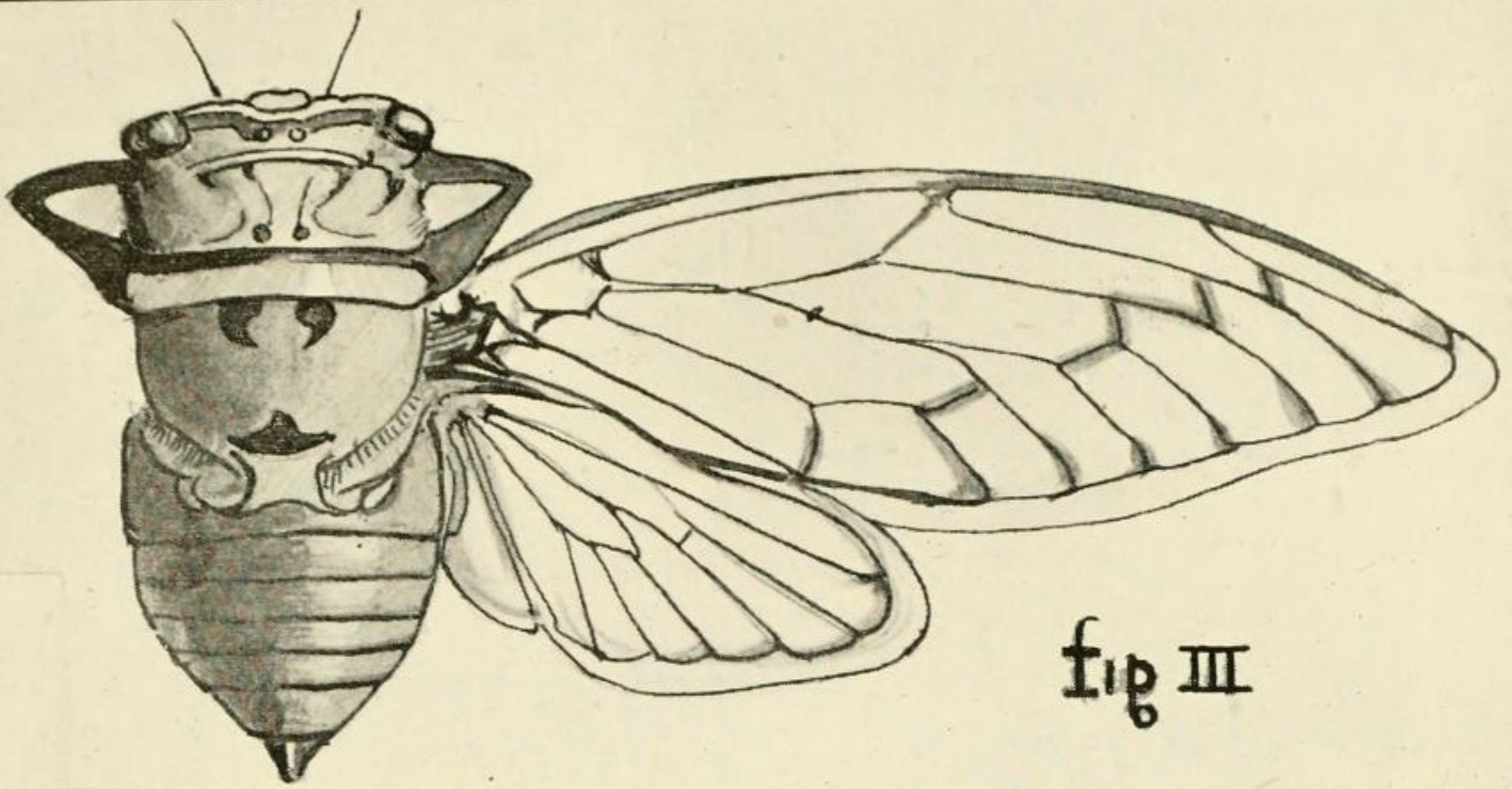
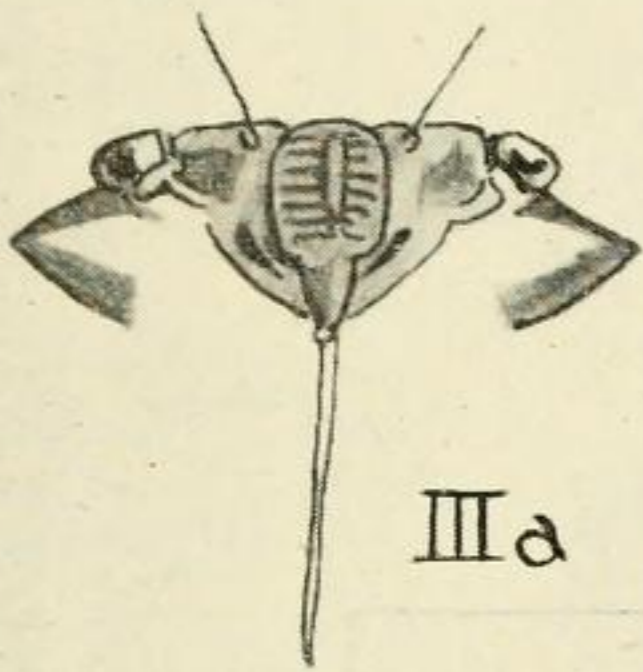
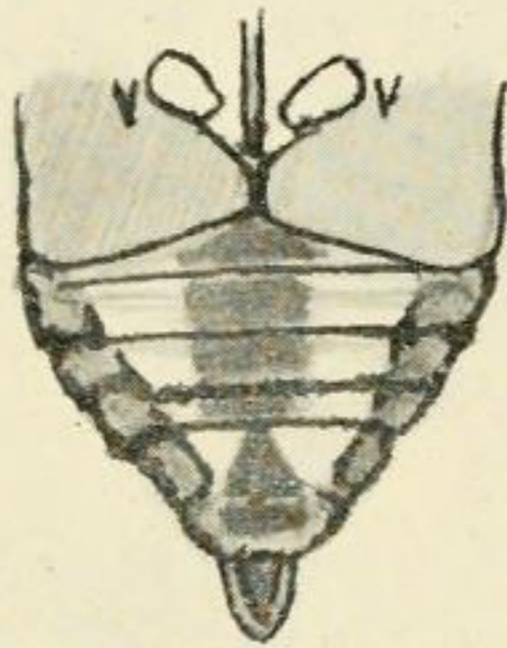


fig III



III a



III b

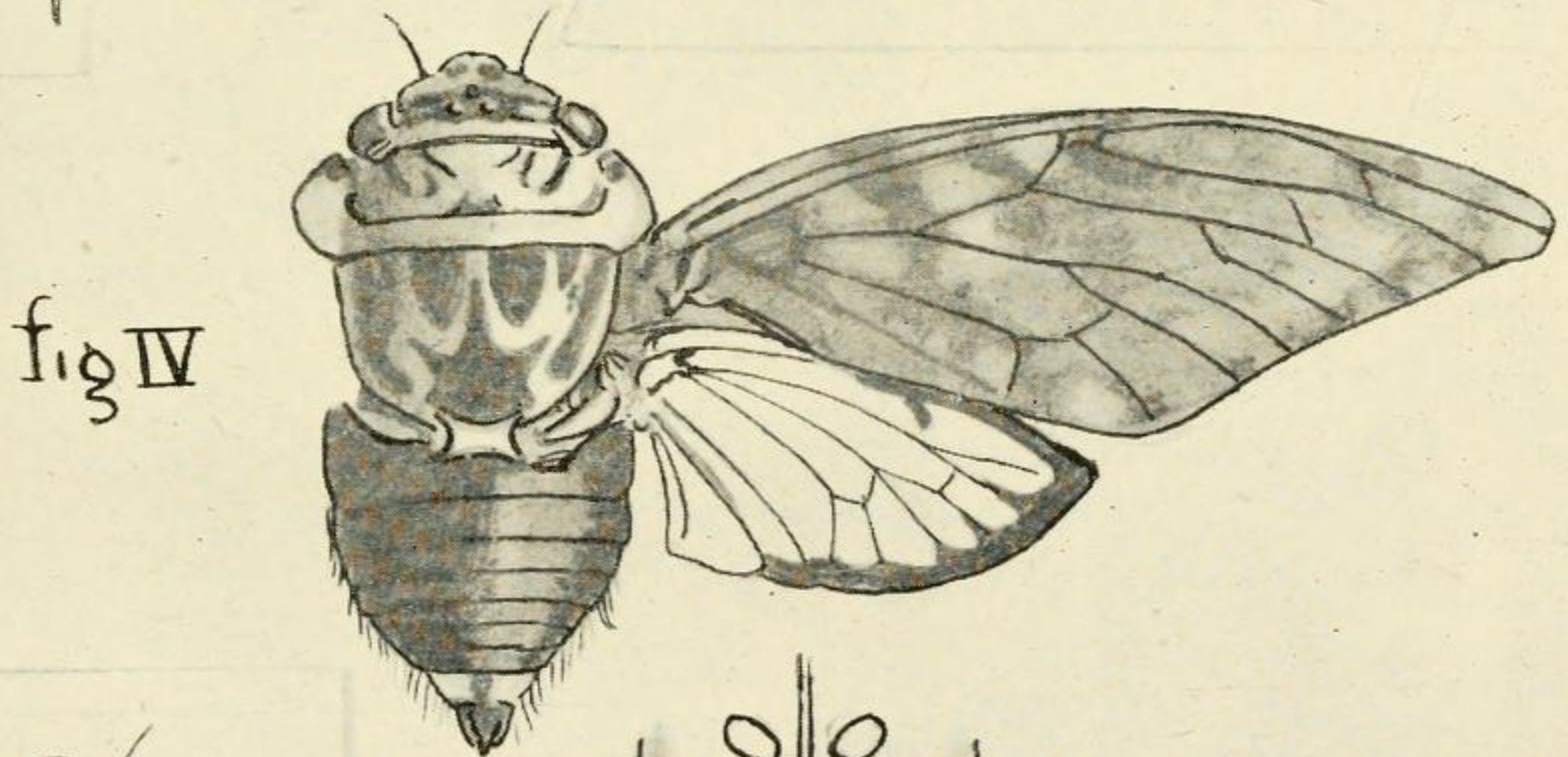
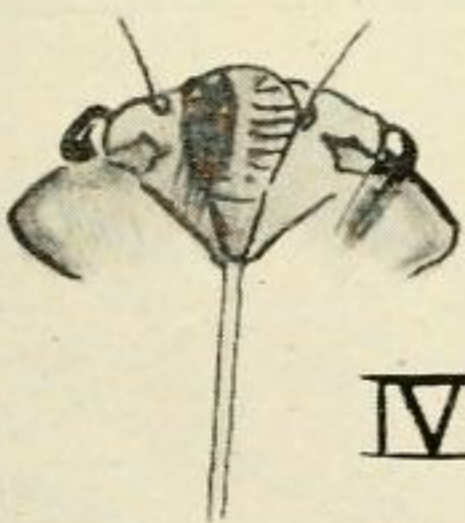
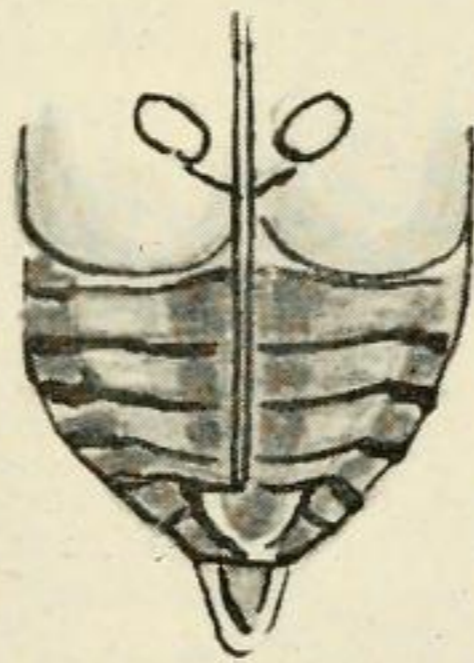


fig IV



IV a



IV b

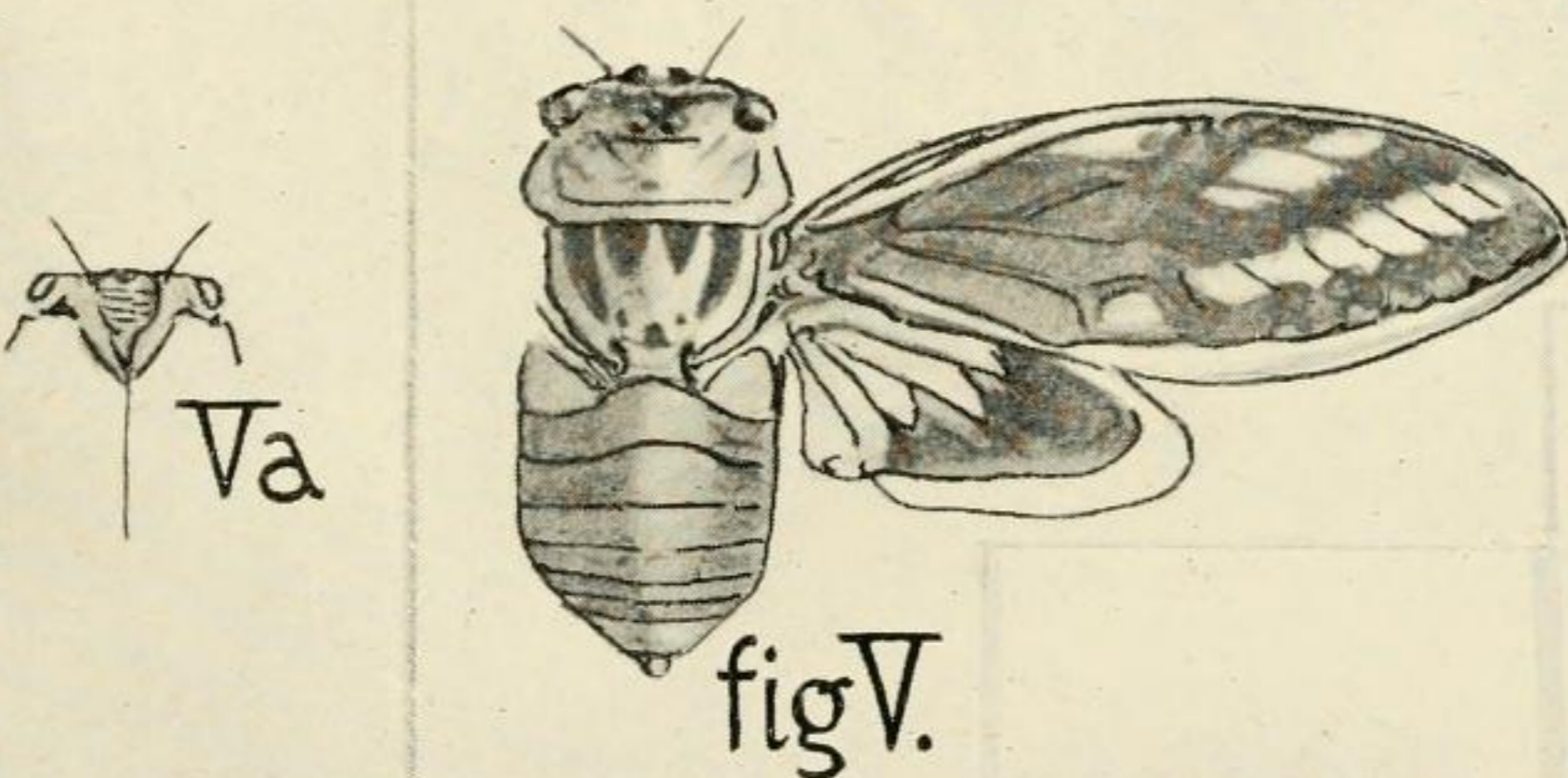
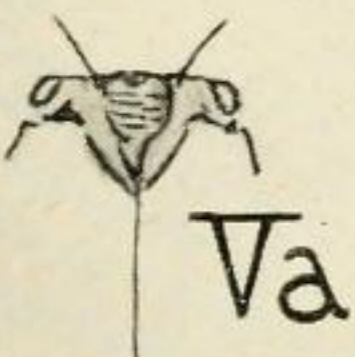
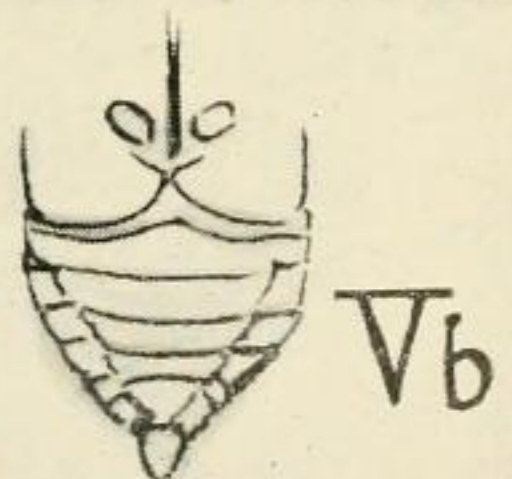


fig V.



Va



Vb

Eyes brown. *Pronotum* brownish ochraceous, immaculate. *Mesonotum*, brownish ochraceous, with four strongly defined black obconical spots, the inner pair shorter, brownish spots at anterior angles of and on centre of disc of cruciform elevation. Abdomen black, shading at lateral edges and tip to an obscure castaneous. Body beneath brownish ochraceous. *Tegmina* all greyish fuscous and opaque, except for a hyaline fascia across bases of apical areas, and another, including upper discoidal area and portion of second. Spot behind costa, small spots in apices of apical areas, and margin, also hyaline. *Wings* with basal third and anal area yellow, central third deep fuscous, and apical margin, which is very broad, hyaline. Head equal in width to mesonotum, short, obtusely convex, front not prominent, pronotal margins narrow and not produced laterally; head, pronotum and mesonotum about equal in length to abdomen. Face flattened, rostrum just reaching hind coxae. Opercula, broadly rounded posteriorly, not quite meeting centrally. Seven males in Coll. H. A.

Length.—13-15 mm.; exp. teg., 37-40 mm.

Hab.—Central Africa, Sikumba.

PLATYPLEURA LONGIROSTRIS, n. sp.

Head, dull ochraceous, base of front in two bright yellow spots, followed by a fine black fascia. Black fascia between eyes, including area of ocelli and broken between ocelli and eyes, and surround a dull ochraceous spot. Eyes brown. *Pronotum* dull ochraceous, incisures and spot before posterior margin blackish. Spot on anterior angles of pronotal lateral margins, which are fairly ampliate and rounded, black. *Mesonotum* ochraceous, two central obconical spots, on each side a longer fascia extending over almost whole of lateral areas, between the two central spots a fine line joining with a large black area before the cruciform elevation; all black, cruciform elevation shining yellow. *Abdomen* black, tympanal coverings dull castaneous, penultimate segment of abdomen above covered, except for central dorsal line, with white tomentum. *Tegmina* warm fuscous, marked with several white spots, of which the most prominent are, two in radial area, one in third discoidal area, one in eighth apical area, and one at apex of fifth apical area. *Wings* reddish yellow, evenly margined with piceous, white spot on margin just outside anal area, which is all yellow. Body beneath almost uniformly dull brown, central sulcus to face, tip of rostrum,

transverse fasciae on abdominal segments, markings to fore femora, black, sternum and abdomen powdered with white tomentum. Rostrum reaches penultimate abdominal segment. Opercula broad, rounded, just touching centrally. Three males and two females in Coll. H. A.

Length.—♂ 22 mm., exp. teg., 64 mm

Hab.—Africa, Entebbe, Uganda.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE.

Fig. 3.—*Platypleura nigromarginata*, n. sp. × 2.

Fig. 4.—*Platypleura longirostris*, n. sp. × 2.

Fig. 5.—*Platypleura sikumba*, n. sp. × 2.