



## Order HEMIPTERA.

## Suborder HOMOPTERA.

## Family CIXIIDÆ.

*Oliarus oppositus* (Plate 32, fig. 10.)

*Oliarus oppositus* Walker = *O. marginalis* Walker: Hutton, *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 30, 186.

The nymph of this little frog-hopper may be found commonly, for most of the year, under logs and stones, and is of exceptional interest. (See Plate 32, fig. 11.) Its length when full-grown, excluding the woolly secretion attached to the three terminal segments of the body, is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in.; the rostrum, which reaches to the hind coxæ, is thin but well developed; the antennæ are inserted in concavities beneath the eyes, and apparently consist of two large and almost globular joints, a small cylindrical penultimate and a small setiform terminal joint. The nymph inhabits small cavities or tunnels under logs or stones which have been excavated by earthworms, ants, or other subterranean dwellers. The woolly substance attached to the posterior segments of the abdomen is extremely delicate and is very easily detached, so that loose fragments of it are sometimes found in the burrows frequented by the nymphs. These nymphs are often, though not by any means invariably, found closely associated with a large ant (*Ponera castanea* ??) On one occasion I observed an individual ant whose head had become involved in a mass of the fluffy secretion. The ant was making the most strenuous efforts to rid itself of the obstruction, using its forelegs with great vigour to that end. This incident suggested to me that the probable object of the fluffy secretion was to protect its owner from enemies. The nymph is fairly active, and the fluffy wool projects a considerable distance beyond the end of its body. Any predaceous insect or other enemy would thus be likely to seize hold of the fluff, and before it could get rid of this substance the nymph itself would have ample time to make its escape. The white colour of the fluff would also make it fairly conspicuous even in a very dim light, and would thus invite an enemy to seize hold of it. Nymphs when much handled soon lose the fluffy secretion, but I have found that it is completely renewed within the space of three days. Specimens are sometimes found having the "broad fluffy tail" considerably longer than it is shown in the figure. The perfect insect is found amongst grass and other vegetation throughout the summer.

*Maori Plaited Basketry and Plaitwork: 2, Belts and Bands, Fire-fans and Fly-flaps, Sandals and Sails.*

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Plates 33-40

INTRODUCTION.

PART 1 of this article (4) was confined to the technique of plaiting mats, baskets, and burden-carriers as it exists among the Whanganui tribes. In this second part use has also been made of any available information from other tribes.

4. BELTS AND BANDS.

Plaited bands are divided into two kinds—those used on the person, and those used in connection with the cooking of food. The bands used on the person as articles of dress or ornamentation are again divided into (a) fillets for the head, and (b) belts for the waist.

(a.) FILLETS.

Narrow plaited bands of white wefts are used as ornamental fillets for the head. They are called *tipare* or *kopare*. Feathers used to decorate the hair are known as *pare*, as are also any bands or wreaths for the hair. The *tipare* forms a convenient support for the feather *pare*. Williams (1) also gives *kotaha* as "Part of a chief's head-dress, consisting of a fillet in which feathers are stuck." These fillets are usually plaited with four wefts, and when completed form a narrow band with serrated edges. The ends of the band are joined together to form a circle which fits over the head above the brows. The technique is admirably shown in figs. 1-9, prepared by Mr. J. McDonald. Two sets of two wefts connected by a portion of undivided butt are interlaced to form a check as shown in fig. 1. In the figures the parts with parallel lines denote one surface of the weft, and the dotted part denotes the opposite surface. It will be seen that the edges are sharply defined by folding the underweft diagonally over the outer margin of the weft above it. In this bending or folding over, the other surface of the folding weft is exposed. If each stage is followed as described under the figures, the technique will be found to be quite simple.

This form of plaiting is very similar to a plait used in the making of European straw hats. Ratzel (2) figures a similar plait from Hawaii, and says it was probably introduced. The Maori say it is an old plait, and the Ngati-Porou Tribe of the East Coast call the plait itself *mekameka*. As Europeans in New Zealand were not in the habit of plaiting straw, it is difficult to see in what way they could have imparted such knowledge to the Maori. The Maori may have dissected an old straw hat and thus obtained the technique of the plait, but it seems to be definitely pre-European. (See Plate 33.)

Fillets of coloured flax-fibre woven after the manner of the *taniko*, or ornamented borders of cloaks, are very popular, but do not belong to this article.