

larvae were found to be predatory on mealy-bugs which also inhabited the rushes. By the end of April there were few adults, but larvae were abundant and could easily be swept from rushes. In the laboratory larvae began to pupate or become inactive. Only one specimen was reared to the adult which emerged during the period 14–21 June. Females held in glass vials in early March readily laid eggs in crevices in the cork, and eggs laid by March 18 had all hatched by April 21.

The larva is very active. It bears an anal sucker (papilla), which assists in locomotion, and progresses by a looping movement similar to that of a looper caterpillar. Larvae typically sink their mandibles well into their prey and by this means sometimes lift a mealy-bug and hold it aloft while feeding. One larva was observed to weave a silk mat first when beginning its cocoon but, in this case, it did not complete the structure and pupated under a few loose strands of silk. The silk is an anal secretion and the larva moves the tip of the abdomen back and forth when spinning.

Mealy-bugs, on which larvae preyed, were common amongst the bases of rush clumps and also occurred in caterpillar tunnels down the centre of rush stems. Specimens have been identified by Dr D. J. Williams, Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London, as *Trionymus* sp. (Family Pseudococcidae).

Further specimens of *Cryptoscenea australiensis* have been found by Dr Elsie Collyer, of East Malling Research Station, England, while studying phytophagous mites at the Plant Diseases Division, Mt. Albert, Auckland, during the 1959-60 and 1960-61 seasons. Dr Collyer discovered a few isolated adults, larvae, and eggs, on fruit trees and weeds at Mt Albert and also in orchards at Oratia and Huapai. One male was taken in November, 1959, and three females in March, July, and October, 1960.

Mr E. S. Gourlay, of Entomology Division, Nelson, has advised (*pers. comm.*) that he has seen Coniopterygids in one small area in Nelson from time to time over a period of thirty years. This may have been the source of the material recorded by Tillyard (1926) although no specimens have been found in collections. Mr Gourlay has sent, for examination, one of two specimens he reared from mealy-bug material in 1927 (Napier: on black passion vine, 26.4.1927 (Mrs J. I. Cato)). This is a female *Cryptoscenea australiensis*.

Cryptoscenea australiensis (Enderlein) (Fig. 1, Pl. 1f).

1906. *Helicoconis australiensis* Enderlein, *Zool. Jb. (Syst.)* 23: 232 (New South Wales).

1914. *Cryptoscenea australiensis* Enderlein, *Boll. Lab. Zool. Portici*, 8: 226.

1926. ? *Helicoconis* sp., Tillyard, *Ins. Austr. N.Z.*: 320 (New Zealand).

SPECIMENS. Australia: N. Victoria, pred. on *Pseudococcus adonidum*, 2 ♂, 1 ♀. New Zealand: Auckland, Mangere, ex light trap, 18.10.1959, 11.11.1959, 16.11.1959, 3 ♀; same locality, swept ex rushes (*Juncus*), 17.3.1960, ♂♂, ♀♀ (K. A. J. Wise)

The following is a free translation of Enderlein's description of the female: Pale brown, legs whitish. Abdomen grey. Antennae moderately stout, light brown, with twenty-seven segments; the second to fourteenth segments yellowish white; about three-quarters of the length of the wing. Membrane of the wing pale brownish, veins pale brown, those of the hind wing almost colourless. M and Cu₁ in hind wing closely approximated for their basal two-thirds, so that no membrane is visible between them; at the point of their separation there is a trace of a cross-vein. The cross-vein between Sc and R₁ in both wings is situated very near that between R₁ and R₂₊₃, but slightly nearer the wing apex. No cross-