

NOTE XVII.
ON BOMBUS SENEX VOLL.
(HYMENOPTERA ACULEATA)

BY

C. RITSEMA Cz.

In 1884 I published in vol. VI of the „Notes from the Leyden Museum” (p. 200) the observation that *Bombus senex* Voll. ¹⁾ ought to be regarded as a variety of *Bombus rufipes* Lep.

In 1888 Handlirsch ²⁾ doubted of the correctness of this statement in the following sentence: „Dass Vollenhoven's *Bombus senex* mit *rufipes* Lep. identisch ist, wie Ritsema behauptet, erscheint mir nicht wahrscheinlich; eine Uebereinstimmung herrscht nur in der Beinfarbe.”

In a paper „Die Bienenfauna von Java” recently published by Dr. H. Friese ³⁾, this well-known student of the species of the genus *Bombus* utters an opinion agreeing with that published by me in 1884. Dr. Friese says (l. c. p. 11): „Hier mag auch noch der *Bombus eximius* Sm. und *B. senex* Vollenh. erwähnt werden, die beiden weiteren Formen, die mit *B. rufipes* Lep. so eng verwandt sind, dass sie wohl nur als Lokalvarietäten zu gelten haben.”

Besides the type ⁴⁾ of *Bombus senex* Voll. (a ♀ from Sumatra, Lugdeking leg.), the Leyden Museum possesses a second ♀, captured 12 December 1877 together with three ♂♂ of the typical *Bombus rufipes* Lep., by Messrs.

1) Nederl. Tijdschr. v. Entom. vol. XVI (1873), p. 229, pl. 10, fig. A & B.

2) Ann. d. k. k. naturh. Hofmuseums in Wien, Bd. III (1888), p. 227.

3) Nederl. Tijdschr. v. Entom. vol. LVII (1914), p. 1.

4) This is not in Amsterdam (Friese, l. c. p. 12) but in Leyden.

A. L. van Hasselt and D. D. Veth, members of the Dutch Scientific Sumatra-Expedition, on the summit of the „Peak of Korintji” (the highest mountain of Sumatra, also called „Peak of Indrapoera”), 3690 Meter above the level of the sea ¹⁾.

When describing the ♀ of *Bombus senex*, Snellen van Vollenhoven has not made mention of the ♂ received from Dr. Ludeking in the same lot of insects.

This ♂ measures about 18 mm. in length and is darker coloured than the ♀. Its pilosity is fallow black except on the mesonotum where it is white. On the sides of the mesothorax and on the back of the abdomen the fallow black hairs are intermixed with numerous white or greyish white hairs. The colour of the legs agrees with that of the ♀, but the hairs on the posterior tibiae of the ♂ are more rufous. The wings of the ♂ are infusate, especially at the base and apex; at the base an indistinct purplish hue is visible.

Leyden Museum, March 1914.

1) Later on it has been stated by the triangulation of Sumatra, that the exact height of this mountain is 3805 M.