

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

**Additional records for semiaquatic Hemiptera
in southwestern British Columbia****R.D. KENNER¹ and K.M. NEEDHAM²**

Scudder (1977) published an annotated checklist of the aquatic and semiaquatic Hemiptera of British Columbia (BC); subsequently, several more species were added (Kenner and Needham 2004, Maw *et al.* 2000, Scudder 1986). Scudder (1977) lists only a single record for *Hydrometra martini* Kirkaldy: Lytton, 26.vii.1931, W. Downes. For *Mesovelia mulsanti* White, three records are given for southwestern BC, all from Vancouver Island: Elk Lake (Saanich district), ix.1924, W. Downes; Duncan, 4.ix.1926, W. Downes; Malahat, 4.ix.1929, W. Downes; as well as several records for the interior of BC. We report additional records for these two species from southwestern BC. Voucher specimens for all new records were deposited in the Spencer Entomological Museum (SEM) at the University of British Columbia.

Hydrometridae, water measurers or marsh treaders, are small bugs resembling tiny walkingstick insects (Phasmida) and have long, slender heads and bulging eyes at about mid-length on the head. They are often found walking slowly over the water surface searching for prey. There are nine species in North America, all in the genus *Hydrometra* (Polhemus 2008); only one of these, *H. martini*, is known from Canada (and BC) (Maw *et al.* 2000). We collected a single specimen of *H. martini* from a 10 m wide roadside ditch in Pitt Meadows (ditch between Neave Road and the Pitt River dike, 49°20'N 122°38'W, 12.iv.2008, R.D. Kenner and K.M. Needham). The specimen is apterous, strongly suggesting breeding at

this site. This appears to be only the second time this species has been collected in this province. The 77 year gap between records, even though knowledgeable collectors have been looking for this species (Scudder pers. comm.), suggests that *H. martini* is truly rare in BC.

Mesoveliidae, water treaders, are small predatory bugs usually found crawling or running over the water surface. There are three species in North America, all in the genus *Mesovelia* (Polhemus 2008), two of which are known from Canada, with only one species, *M. mulsanti* known from BC (Maw *et al.* 2000). We report the first records for *M. mulsanti* from the Lower Fraser Valley: Bowen Island, Killarney Lake, 49°23'N 123°21'W, 20.viii.1998, R.D. Kenner, 1 specimen, apterous; Vancouver, Jericho Park, Main Pond, west end, 49°16'N 123°11'W, 08.viii.2008, 8 specimens, 1 macropterous, 7 apterous; 22.ix.2008, 4 specimens, all apterous, R.D. Kenner. In addition, we collected this species on Vancouver Island: Hamilton Marsh, 49°24'N 124°38'W, 11.viii.2004, R.D. Kenner and K.M. Needham, 1 specimen, apterous. Searches through the collections of the SEM and Royal British Columbia Museum (Victoria) add the following unpublished records: Saanich, 48°33'N 123°22'W, 15.ix.1924, 30.ix.1925, W. Downes; Galiano Island, north end, 49°0'N 123°34'W, 1 & 2.ix.1984, G.G.E. Scudder. Although the records for *M. mulsanti* from the interior of BC span the range from April to September, those from the coast are only from Au-

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gust and September. This species may not be as rare as these few records suggest since most specimens are apterous and may easily be dismissed as 'unidentifiable' immature bugs.

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