

of Aphelininae and showed drawings of several of the specimens. This material had come from Nawa, Compere, Green, Lounsbury, Noack, Marlatt, and from others at Washington, D. C. He stated that the aphelinine fauna of the District of Columbia and all North America had been modified by the imported species, which were parasitic upon the scale insects. In many cases these had entirely replaced the native forms. He stated that the commercial distribution of scale parasites was first suggested by LeBaron in 1866. Although a number of workers have spent considerable time upon these interesting groups, there are still many undescribed species and genera. Among the forms exhibited was *Azotus*, an interesting genus which had been received from New Zealand; Paris, France; Ohio, U. S. A.; Cape of Good Hope; and Bathurst, Australia. Doctor Howard noted as of interest the finding in Mexico of specimens of Foerster's Genus *Mesidia*. This was described without type or species name by Foerster.

At the conclusion of Doctor Howard's talk a discussion came up regarding the question as to whether a genus must have a described type. Dr. Stiles maintained that it was not necessary, that the genus was mononomial and was valid even if no species had been named with it.

—Mr. Barber exhibited specimens of a peculiar fly which is attracted in large numbers to the moist patches on the leaves of the tree yucca at Hesperia, Cal., and presented the following note in regard to it:

#### NOTE ON *OMOMYIA HIRSUTA* COQUILLETT.

(DIPTERA, PHYCODROMIDÆ.)

By H. S. BARBER.

On May 12, 1903, I spent a short time trying to collect the insects living on the tree yucca (*Yucca arborescens*) at Hesperia, Cal. Within a stone's throw of the railroad track and nearly opposite where the train stopped stood a large yucca that had recently died, having yellow leaves and slightly loosened bark which came off, leaving the wood moist in places.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> On the same tree were found the very strange lampyrid larvæ previously described (Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., Vol. VII, p. 117).



To these moist spots came flies in large numbers, apparently two species, one of which was large, 6 mm. in length, yellowish, covered with long yellowish hairs, and greatly resembling *Scatophaga furcata* in general appearance. The other was much smaller, black, shiny, with a distinct dark spot near the tip of the wing. The large woolly one appeared very aggressive, alighting often upon the black, shiny one and with his woolly legs outspread so as to hide his captive completely he would run about over the moist wood as if he were a single specimen. But at last I saw a very small woolly specimen alight upon a large black shiny one and in this case saw copulation take place. Then the true state of affairs dawned on me.

I collected a series of about 39 males and 12 females, and 3 pairs in copula. In this series there is enough variation among the males (in size, pubescence, length, and color of scutellum) to make half a dozen modern species, but the females appear to be much alike. The males vary in size from a  $6\frac{1}{2}$  millimeter specimen, which was covering a 4 millimeter female, to a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millimeter specimen caught in copula with a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  millimeter female. The scutellum in large males is much elongate and yellow, while in small ones it is short and black, and there is an almost complete series of intergrades between these extremes.

Mr. Coquillett has recently published<sup>a</sup> the description of a new genus and species, *Omomyia hirsuta*, made from 8 specimens collected at Lancaster, Cal., by Mr. A. Koebele, in April, several years ago. One of these cotypes is labeled "*Yucca brevifolia*." They are all large males, and only the large males in my series agree with the generic description. Through an oversight my series of over 50 specimens was not before Mr. Coquillett at the time his description was drawn up, but he tells me that he intends to publish in the Canadian Entomologist a generic diagnosis revised so as to include the females and depauperated males.

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—Mr. Banks made some remarks upon a collection of insects which he had made in a locality in the open woods near Falls Church, Va. This collection showed a remarkable association of insects of varied forms and habits. In the discussion Mr. Schwarz made a strong plea for the collection of such associations, citing the interesting work of Hubbard and several others.

<sup>a</sup> Canadian Entomologist, 1907, p. 76.



Barber, Herbert Spencer. 1908. "Note on *Omomyia hirsuta* Coquillett (Diptera, Phycodromidae)." *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 9, 28–29.

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