

## A NEW CHALCID PARASITE ON THE COMMON BASKET WORM (*Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis* Haworth).

BY WM. H. ASHMEAD, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

This peculiar moth, which so perplexed the older Lepidopterists at classifying, is quite common in Florida on oaks, willows, shrubs, etc.

Full accounts of its habits, with accurate figures of the moth, caterpillar, etc., will be found in Prof. Riley's "First Mo. Report," Saunders' "Insects Injurious to Fruits," and Dr. Lintner's "First N. Y. Report."

Indeed, these authors quite fully, accurately and succinctly describe the habits and parasites of this pest, and it would not now be noticed by me but for the fact of my breeding from it here in Florida a Chalcid parasite new to science and unnoticed by any of the above mentioned authors.

Prof. Riley, in his report, gave but two parasites, *Pimpla inquisitor* Say, and *Hemiteles thyridopterygis* Riley. Mr. Lintner, in his work, added *Pimpla conquisitor* Say, *Chalcis ovata* Say, a *Pteromalus* allied to *Pteromalus puparum* L., and a fly—*Tachina* species—making in all six parasites.

I have now the pleasure of recording the seventh, a *species novum*, interesting from the fact that it belongs to a genus in the family *Chalcididae*, recognized by the abnormal shape of its first antennal joint, and in which heretofore but one species was known to science, and that described from Europe.

Sub-fam. EUCYRTINÆ.

*Dinocarsis thyridopterygis*, n. sp.

♀. Length .06; wing exp. .14 inch. Color: pale brown, abdomen darker; posterior femora and tibiæ darker; scutellum rather large, somewhat orange.

Head much broader than thorax, eyes large, brown; antennæ long, 11-jointed, large, strongly, sub-triangularly keeled below, the three terminal joints white; wings rather long and narrow, pubescent, submarginal vein short, rather close to and parallel with outer margin, marginal vein not extending to half the length of wing, it, with stigmal and postmarginal veins, very small and about equal in length.

Described from a specimen bred in March.

The rearing of this Chalcid is quite interesting, as it is the first of the genus recorded from North America, and the second species known.



The genus *Dinocarsis* was erected by Forster in 1856, *vide* Hymenopterologische Studien, p. 33, to contain *Eucyrtus hemipterus* Dalman.

Dr. Mayr, in Die Europaischen Eucyrtiden, gives the synonymy as follows :

*Dinocarsis hemiptera* Dalm.

*Eucyrtus hemipterus* Dalm., Ict. Ac. H. 1820, p. 166 (42) und 371.

Nees Hym. i. a. M., 1834, p. 252.

*Dinocarsis hemiptera* Forst., Hym. Stud. ii., 1856, p. 37.

*Dicelloceras vibrans* Six Tijdschr. v. Entomol. 1867, pl. x., f. g.

Nothing is known of this European species. Mine, while bred from the case, is evidently parasitic on the eggs enclosed therein.

#### NOTE ON PRIONOXYSTUS ROBINIÆ.

BY AUG. R. GROTE, A. M.

Having recently examined the European *Cossus* (*Xyleutes*) *ligniperda*, the generic differences between *Cossus* and *Prionoxystus* impressed me quite forcibly. The *Cossidæ* or *Teredines* of Hübner (Grote, Proc. Am. Phil. Soc., Nov., 1874), form a sub-family group of the "Spinners" or *Bombycidæ*, and are generally characterized by the wood-eating habit of the larvæ, which are provided with powerful mandibles for the purpose. The moths are generally of a clumsy build and are usually of a gray color, resembling the bark of trees on which they rest, and are more or less reticulated with darker shade lines, peppered and spotted so as to give the idea of protective imitation. The ocelli are wanting and the tongue is rudimentary. In the genus *Cossus*, and in most of the genera of the group, the vestiture of the body is close, thick and hairy. Although gray is the prevailing color, some Australian species have the hind wings especially of a reddish-brown hue. The European *Zeuzera Aesculi* is white, spotted over wings and thorax with steely blue. The North American genus *Prionoxystus* differs at first sight by the sparse, thinly laid on, scaly vestiture. The thorax, compared with *Cossus*, is elongated and the prothorax slopes to the head, which latter is freer than in *Cossus*. This gives the insect a Sphingid appearance which, joined to the more pointed wings and the yellow secondaries of the male, recalls certain *Macroglossinæ*, notably our *Lepisesia flavofasciata*. The parts of the head afford comparative differences when examined and compared with *Cossus*.



Ashmead, William H. 1886. "A new chalcid parasite on the common basket worm." *The Canadian entomologist* 18, 97–98.

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