(Nylanderia) bourbonica, Forel, the type of which is known from Madagascar. This variety was very probably introduced into Florida on plants.

Mr. Hill in remarking about the habits of the ants stated that the workers were observed running over sand and the pavement of sidewalks at Miami. It would appear that this species is not only well established at Miami but that it is capable of living outdoors. Whether the species will prove to be a house infesting form is not known, but it would appear that there might be a strong possibility of this since a number of our native Para-trechina (Nylanderia) have this habit.


AN OUTBREAK OF THE CORN SYRPHUS FLY

By J. R. WATSON AND A. N. TISSOT

The larvae of Mesogramma polita Say, have food habits very unusual for a syrphus fly, most of which feed on aphids and other small insects, tho some are scavengers. The larvae became extremely abundant in a corn field near Waldo, Fla., in early June. They appeared in such large numbers on the tassels and the leaves as to attract attention of the owner of the field and cause him considerable alarm. In response to an S.O.S. from him, the field was visited by the writers. By that time the larvae had almost disappeared; only one was seen. But there were large numbers of pupae, especially on the leaves. In some cases as many as five pupae were taken from a single leaf.

In Insect Life, Volume I, p. 5, there is an account under the name of Mesogramma polita, of two similar outbreaks of this syrphus fly. One in New Jersey and the other in Florida. In the previous outbreak in Florida, the larvae were observed to be feeding upon the stalks of corn where they caused soft discolored places. In the New Jersey outbreak they were recorded as feeding exclusively on pollen. In the field at Waldo no damage to the stalks was seen. The larvae apparently confined themselves exclusively to pollen. They had fed extensively on the tassels, and those found on the leaves had undoubtedly been feeding on pollen grains which had fallen there. They had caused no apparent damage to the corn. It seems probable that this insect is by preference a pollen feeder and feeds on the other parts of corn only when forced to do so by hunger. A noteworthy characteristic of this outbreak was the fact that the maggots appeared in such large numbers suddenly and disappeared as suddenly. Twenty-four hours after the farmer had first noticed their presence on the corn, they had almost entirely disappeared, although plenty of adults were found flying about. Puparia collected from this field were found to be highly parasited by two as yet undetermined species of Hymenoptera.