NOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF PTEROBOBOSCA

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In the December number of the Florida Entomologist (33: 141-144, 1950) mention is made of two defective specimens of Pterobosca from Puerto Rico that were not described. Recently I was fortunate enough to find in the Cornell University collection two more specimens in good condition of the same species and from the same locality. The species, named P. incubans by Macfie, was originally recorded from British Honduras. It is a small form chiefly black in color, the feet without claws, the fourth tarsal segment somewhat shorter than the fifth, and with but a single spermatheca.

To Macfie’s description (Proc. R. Ent. Soc. London, 6: 111, 1937) may be added:

The eyes are sparsely and short haired; the palpi are a scant 0.1 mm. in length, the last three segments having lengths in proportion to each other of 7:5:6, the third segment swollen and with a large sense pit, last segment slender and tapering, terminating in a few long hairs. The antenna is 0.3 mm. in length, the ratio of the length of segments 10 to 15 combined to length of segments 3 to 9 combined is about 2.4; the latter segments disc-like, transverse. Wing length 0.7 to 0.9 mm., width 0.3 to 0.35 mm. Hind basitarsus averages 3.5 times longer than the second segment. The empodium is large, three-fourths as long as the fifth segment, complex, with 10 or 11 rays, resembling that of P. oeschnodes, as figured by Macfie (Tijdschr. v. Ent. 75:268. 1932). Length of insect 1.4 mm.

Macfie’s statement that the eggs are bare is incorrect. Specimens in the U. S. National Museum that were collected in Mexico and determined by Macfie as P. incubans have pilose eyes, the pile visible under a magnification of 400 to 500 diameters, especially distinct when the specimen is first treated with caustic potash.

The type described by Macfie was found on the wing of Argyia ulmea. Specimens examined by me were collected by Dr. J. G. Needham at L. Tortuguero, Puerto Rico, on February 10 and March 21, 1935, and from Leres, P. R., in March, 1935. the hosts are Erythrodiplax umbrata and Lepthemia vesiculata. For the privilege of examining the Mexican specimens mentioned above, I am indebted to Dr. W. W. Wirth of the U. S. National Museum.
Pterobosca fusicornis (Coquillett)


Dr. W. W. Wirth of the U. S. National Museum called my attention to the fact that the species described by Coquillett under the name of *Ceratopogon fusicornis* is a *Pterobosca* and pointed out that *P. floridana* Joh. and probably also *P. macfiei* Costa-Lima are synonymous with *fusicornis*. It appears that the degree of variation in the antennal and tarsal ratios among individual specimens is too great to warrant the use of these ratios as diagnostic specific characters.

Since the publication of the account of this species in the December number of this journal I have found on the wings of dragonflies in the Cornell University collection three more specimens in better condition which enable me to add the following data:

The antennal ratio is 3.1, the same as for the specimen described in the above mentioned article. Both the thorax and the abdomen are sparsely beset with black bristles of varying lengths. The spermatotheca, short oval in form, are two in number. The basistyle of the hind leg is about three times as long as the second tarsal segment. The dragonflies upon which these specimens were found were collected by Dr. J. G. Needham.


Lake Placid, Florida. April 12, 1940. On *Cryphaeuschna ingens*.


Pterobosca sp.

A Puerto Rican species taken from the wing of *Leptemia vesiculosa* resembles the African *P. mollipes* Macifie in size, in lacking claws, in having two spermatothecae, and in having a sense pit on the third palpal segment, but differs in antennal and palpal proportions, and somewhat in wing venation. The specimen is broken and lacks most of its legs but the attention of collectors is called to it because of its habitat. It may prove to be but a variant of *P. mollipes*. The most striking differences are the relative lengths of the last three palpal segments (7 - 6 - 9.2), the greater antennal ratio (2.5), and in the wing venation, the anterior branch of the media ending *before* the wing tip.

The dragonfly host was collected by Dr. J. G. Needham at L. Tortuguero, Puerto Rico, March 21, 1935.