A NOTE ON THE BIOLOGY OF SYNANTHEDON SAPYGAEFORMIS FLORIDENSIS (GROTE)
(LEPIDOPTERA: AEGERIIDAE)

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During March, 1956, Mr. L. J. Daigle, State Plant Board Inspector, sent in several galls taken from oak (Quercus sp.) in Miami. No insects had emerged from these galls and they were set aside under a bell jar. Shortly thereafter gall wasps, Callirhytis batatoides (Ashm.), emerged and were sent to the United States National Museum where they were identified by Dr. L. H. Weld. Gall wasps continued to emerge for about a week and after a lase of about another week a moth, Synanthedon sapygaeformis floridensis (Grote), emerged from one of the galls. The moth was identified by Dr. J. F. Gates Clarke. The moth pupal case had been pulled part way out of the gall by the emerging moth, as shown in the photo. This note concerns the known life history of the moth.

Galls formed by Callirhytis batatoides (Ashm.). Both the gall wasps and the moth, Synanthedon sapygaeformis floridensis (Grote) emerged from these galls. Note the moth pupal case which was pulled part way out by the emerging moth. Photo by F. W. Mead.

Beutenmuller (1897) in discussing the family Sesiidae (now Aegeriidae) stated: “Larvae of the family are internal feeders, living on roots, stems or pith of plants, or under bark, solid wood or roots of trees.” Some, it

1 Now Horticulturist, Waltham Field Station, University of Massachusetts, Waltham.
was stated, were inquisitive in the galleries or wounded places made by other insects. The moth had been taken several times by 1897 on oak trees, but its relationship with the gall wasp was not known at the time. Engelhart (1946) remarked that long series of this moth had been reared from cynipid galls, but no species of gall wasp were mentioned nor references cited. Furthermore, it was not mentioned whether moths and wasps had emerged from the same gall. Engelhart felt that there was only one moth brood a year. Observations (probably by Engelhart) indicated that moths emerged only from well-developed galls and developed only in galls with live tissue. He also stated that co-habitants of the gall frequently were ants and that no problems arose in the development of the moth as long as the pupal case remained intact.

Moth, gall wasps, and the galls have been placed in the collection of the State Plant Board of Florida at Gainesville.

LITERATURE CITED


ADDITIONS TO THE UNITED STATES LIST OF CIADELLIDÆ: Two leafhopper species, new to the United States, were collected recently by State Plant Board of Florida inspectors in Miami, Florida. Individuals of both species have been placed in the collections of the U. S. National Museum and the State Plant Board of Florida.

Idona sexmaculata (DeLong). Six specimens were collected by L. J. Daigle, March 20, 1959, on Hibiscus sp. These were identified by Dr. David A. Young, Jr. of the United States National Museum. In 1923, this species was described from specimens in Puerto Rico, and placed in the genus Emponax. In 1952, Caldwell and Martorell placed it in the genus Hyblia. The same year Young reclassified it to Idona.

Rabelia tabebuia (Dozier). Four specimens were collected by C. F. Dowling, Jr., April 9, 1959, on African tulip tree, Spathodea campanulata Beauv. Identification by D. A. Young, Jr. On March 18, 1957, L. J. Daigle collected R. tabebuia on African tulip tree in North Miami Beach, reporting the abundance to be 4 per leaf. Identification by F. W. Mead. This species was described in the genus Protalebra, and has been reported from Cuba. Subsequently the insect has been recorded from the plant Tabebuia sp. and it now appears to be well established in the Miami area.

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