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THREE NEGRO BUG STATE RECORDS FOR ILLINOIS (HEMIPTERA:CORIMELAENIDAE)

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ABSTRACT. -- The first records in Illinois of 3 negro bug species are presented.

The Family Corimelaenidae (negro bugs) is world-wide in distribution and contains several North American species. Although many of these species are common, very few have been studied in any detail. Thus, basic information (e.g., life cycle, geographical distribution) is either incomplete, inaccurate, or lacking for many of them.

The situation in Illinois reflects the general lack of knowledge of the family. An annotated list of the state's species was published over 50 years ago (Hart, 1919). McAtee and Malloch (1933) subsequently published a revision of the family which included additional information on Illinois species. Since that time, no new species have been added to the state list.

During the past 5 years, I have collected several hundred specimens of negro bugs in southern Illinois. These have been supplemented by a few specimens taken by other collectors. They have proven to represent several species, 3 of which are state records. This paper presents information on these records. The specimens are housed in the Entomology Collection of the Southern Illinois University Zoology Research Museum.

Genus Corimelaena White

Corimelaena (Corimelaena) agrella McAtee (in Hart, 1919). This species has been recorded from the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Texas (McAtee & Malloch, 1933) and Kentucky (Hart, 1919). Nothing is known about its life history.

During 1972-73 I found 30 adults in Jackson and Union Counties; the majority were collected in the La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area, Union County. They were taken between 20 April and 14 September, generally in low-lying shaded vegetation along roadsides. The only host plant recorded was Phlox pilosa L. from Pine Hills. Adults were noted feeding on the leaves 20 April, 1973.

Five additional adult specimens have been found by other collectors in Jackson and Williamson Counties 3 May-31 August, 1963-73.

Genus Galgupha Amyot & Serville

Galgupha (Galgupha) carinata McAtee & Malloch (1933). This species has been found in the following states: Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas (McAtee & Malloch, 1933), Missouri (Froeschner, 1941), and Michigan (McPherson, 1970). The only information about its life history is a feeding record on Oxalis sp. in Virginia (Hoffman, 1971).

It was not surprising to find this species in southern Illinois since it had previously been collected in Missouri and Michigan. One adult ♀ was collected on 25 May 1973 and 1 adult ♂ on 27 July 1973. Both were collected sweeping exposed roadside vegetation in the La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area.

Galgupha (Galgupha) denudata Uhler (1863). This species has previously been found in the District of Columbia, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas (McAtee & Malloch, 1933). Nothing is known about its life history.

During 1972-73, I found 11 adults in the La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area between 5 May and 29 September. They were collected sweeping a field in an early stage of secondary succession, and vegetation along roadsides. Both areas were partially shaded and at the base of the Pine Hills bluffs.

Three additional adult specimens have been found at Pine Hills by other collectors 7 May-17 September, 1966-71.

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