A NEW SPECIES OF CHIROTHRIPS FROM COLORADO (THYSANOPTERA: THRIPIDAE)

LEWIS J. STANNARD, JR.
Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana

Members of the genus *Chirothrips* are still imperfectly known in North America. In 1939 Andre gave an excellent synopsis of the species then recorded principally from the United States. For a period of three years thereafter, other species were described, two of which may prove to be synonyms.

Since 1941 no species of *Chirothrips* from North Americe has been described or analyzed except those from California (Bailey, 1957). Although there is a moderate amount of material in museum collections from the eastern and western parts of the United States, there is a paucity of specimens from the Great Plains, much of Canada, and almost all of Mexico.

Recently through the kindness of Dr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Ross, who often collect Thysanoptera to aid my studies, I have been able to examine many thrips from the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountain regions. The new species described herein was among their collections. I am most obliged to the Rosses for these specimens and to Miss Kellie O'Neill, U. S. National Museum, for the loan of critical material and for advice.

Chirothrips alexanderae new species

Female (macropterous).—Length distended, about 1.8 mm.; general color dark brown; antennal segment III light brown; tarsi yellow; wings yellow, lightly suffused with brown; body with red to orange subintegumental pigment scattered throughout as dots.

Head (Fig. 1) greatly produced in front of eyes; distance of vertex between fore margin of eye and base of antennae equal to or surpassing cheek margin from base of eye to posterior margin of head; vertex with faint elongate reticulations; posterior of dorsum of head with transverse striae; head setae few in number; each interocellar seta arising close to eye margin, placed slightly forward of fore ocellus; ocelli present; antennal segment I not greatly enlarged; segment II drawn out at outer apex into sharply pointed tip with seta placed just below tip, and with outer margin seemingly ridged or more heavily sclerotized than remainder of segment; segment VI not longer than segments IV and V combined.

Pronotum moderately long; transverse straiae, only moderately setose; setae slender, with two pairs of prominent posterolateral setae. Prosternum lacking setae. Mesonotum transversely striate, without scallops. Meso- and metanotum with only the normally few pairs of setae. Meso- and metasternum with relatively few setae. Fore wings fully developed.

Abdominal tergites with sculpture in form of transverse striae, without scallop-like markings. Abdominal sternites with transverse striae usually broken into scallop-like sculpture; posterior margin with distinct toothlike projections laterally, straight medially. Abdominal segment X pointed and nearly twice as long as abdominal tergite IX.

Male.—Unknown.

Holotype.—Female, Green Mountain Falls, Colorado, June 16, 1954, Ross and Ross, in grassland. *Paratype.*—1 ♀, Ellicott, Colorado, July 11, 1956, Ross and Ross, in grass mixture.

These types are deposited in the collection of the Illinois Natural History Survey.

A closely related form, if not a variety of the same species, is repre-

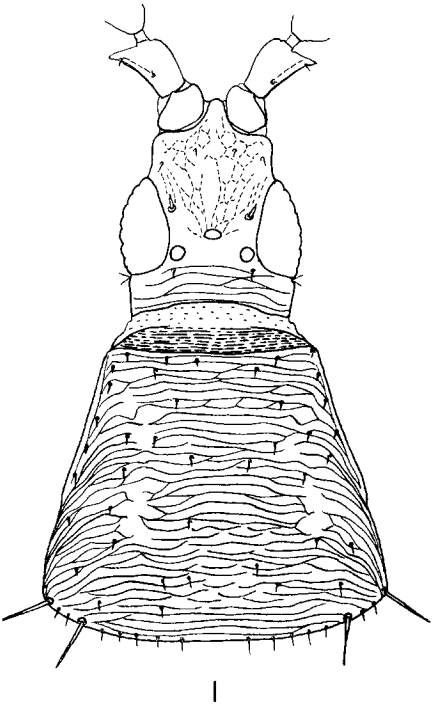

FIG. 1.—*Chirothrips alexanderae* new species. Head and prothorax, dorsal aspect.

sented before me by a single specimen from south of Thedford, Nebraska, collected by Dr. R. A. Evers and myself on June 22, 1957, from a hillside prairie. In this specimen, antennal segment II is slightly shorter than that of the types; abdominal segment X is only just slightly longer than abdominal tergite IX; and the abdominal sternites have the transverse striae more continuous and less broken up into scallops. Until more is known about the range of variation in the populations from Colorado and Nebraska it is not possible to draw a sound conclusion on the taxonomic status of the Nebraska specimen.

The North American species which most closely resembles *C. alexanderae* is *C. praeocularis* Andre. In *praeocularis* antennal segment II is more decidedly produced than that of *alexanderae* (Compare Fig. 1 in Andre, 1941, and Fig. 1 in this paper.) and the abdominal sternites usually lack strong toothlike fringes along the posterior margin. In *alexanderae* these toothlike projections are conspicuous along the lateral margins of the abdominal sternites.

The species, *C. productus* Hood, which is found in the same general region as *alexanderae,* has the head only moderately produced (See Fig. 3, plate XIV, in Hood, 1927.) and probably is a member of the *manicatus* complex rather than of the *praeocularis* — *alexanderae* group. *Chirothrips frontalis* Williams from Argentina is similar in head characteristics, at least, to *alexanderae,* but these two species can be distinguished by the placement of the ocellar setae.

This species is named in honor of Mrs. Ruth Alexander, at whose summer home the collectors, Dr. and Mrs. Ross, were guests.

LITERATURE CITED

ANDRE, F. 1939. A synopsis of the American species of Chirothrips Haliday (Thysanoptera). Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., 41(6):192-204.

1941. Two new species of Chirothrips Haliday with notes on Chirothrips frontalis Williams. Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer., 34(2):451-457.

BAILEY, S. F. 1957. The thrips of California, part 1: suborder Terebrantia. Bull. Calif. Insect Surv., 4(5):143-220.

HOOD, J. D. 1927. New Thysanoptera from the United States. Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc., 35:123-142.

Manuscript received April 28, 1959.