

SOME CONFUSED SPECIES OF PHLEPSIUS AND EUTETTIX (HOMOPTERA).

HERBERT OSBORN

Department of Zoology and Entomology, Ohio State University

PHLEPSIUS STROBI Fitch.

Bythoscopus strobi Fitch, Fourth Report, N. Y. State Lab. N. H. p. 58, (1851).

This species was described by Fitch, as taken from Pine, but Van Duzee and later authors have applied the name to a species of *Eutettix* which is strikingly like it in general appearance but which occurs on *Chenopodium*. The Fitch description reads:

"PINE BYTHOSCOPIUS, *B. strobi*. Yellowish-brown; elytra with three white bands, and closely inscribed with fuscous points and lines, outer margin with small fuscous spots; beneath brown; legs pallid, with spine-bearing black dots. Length, 0.20. Common on pines in May. No. 771, male; 772, female." (Vide reprint in 46th Rept. State Museum, N. Y., 1893).

While very brief this applies perfectly to a small species of *Phlepsius* that I have taken from Pine in Ohio and to specimens received from collectors in New York and, what is most important, the specimens from pine agree perfectly with the specimen from the Fitch collection in the National Museum. A more detailed description follows:

Resembling *Eutettix chenopodii* but with longer, angular edged vertex and with three whitish bands on elytra, the anterior one extending from scutellum to half way point on clavus. Length, female, 4.5-5 mm.; male, 4.1 mm.

Head wider than pronotum, vertex angular, one-half longer at middle than next the eye, margin angular; front longer than wide; clypeus with sides nearly parallel, apex truncate; loræ nearly touching margin of cheek. Pronotum twice as long as vertex, hind border slightly emarginate.

Color gray fulvus. Vertex fulvus mottled with whitish and with pronotum and scutellum brown, irrorate with gray or whitish; elytra with bands of white and brown, a white band across base from middle of scutellum to middle of clavus, another just beyond apex of clavus and a third just before the apex, are inscribed with delicate brown lines.

Genitalia. Female last ventral segment long with median third produced. Male valve short, rounded behind, plates triangular, tips acute.

Specimens have been taken at Cantwell Cliff, Ohio, on Pine, in Guernsey Co., Ohio, by Mr. F. E. Guyton, and I have examined specimens from Yaphank, L. I., N. Y., collected May 30, 1911, by Mr. Chris E. Olsen.

PHLEPSIUS UHLERI, Van Duzee.

Similar to *P. strobi* Fitch in size and coloration but with the vertex less angular, horizontal and distinctly transversely depressed while the pattern on the elytra differs in that the middle white band is angular and more broken, and the white spots clearer and more sharply defined.

The specimen in the National Museum, presumably one from which the description was written is labeled "Odenton Aug. 1" and "Phlepsius uhleri V. Duz. Md."

The Van Duzee description is good and the above comparison will suffice to separate the species from *strobi* Fitch (not Van Duzee) to which it seems most closely related. From *lippulus* it differs in the shorter vertex as well as somewhat smaller size and especially in the male genitalia. While in the same group as *franconiana*, *slossoni*, *fastuosus* and *punctiscriptus* it is much smaller than any of these and has decidedly different genitalia.

EUTETTIX CHENOPODII n. sp.

Phlepsius strobi Van Duzee Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. XIX, p. 67, 1892.

Eutettix strobi Ball. Pr. Dav. Acad. Sci. XIII, p. 44, 1907.

Eutettix strobi Van Duzee Catalogue, p. 665. 1916.

Similar to *Phlepsius strobi* Fitch, but with the vertex short, rounded to front and the elytral picture consisting of two whitish bands instead of three. Length, female, 5.5; male, 4.5.

Head slightly wider than pronotum; vertex short rounded in front with a shallow transverse depression, scarcely longer at middle than next the eye, obtusely angulate to front; front slightly longer than broad, clypeus short, scarcely widened at tip; loræ elongate, the tip reaching border of cheek. Pronotum more than twice as long as vertex, hind border concave.

Color, light fulvus irrorate with light yellow or whitish. Elytra brown, with two white bands, the forward one oblique and extending from tip of scutellum to costa at middle, the hinder one crossing the ante-apical cells.

Genitalia: Female last ventral segment twice as long as preceding, hind border rounded with a notched lobe at the middle. Male valve rounded behind, plates triangular, tips acute.

This is a common species throughout the eastern U. S. and its nymph is found on Lambs quarter (*Chenopodium*) where it produces purple spots that agree in color with the nymph. The description is from specimens collected in Iowa and Ohio, but records under the name of *strobi* carry its distribution from Maine to Utah and south to North Carolina and Texas.

The nomenclature of this species presents a peculiar puzzle as it was actually described by Van Duzee under the name *strobi* which as shown above, must apply to a different species and the name would be preoccupied in *Phlepsius*. Ball, however, described the species having placed it in *Eutettix* in which genus the name *strobi* has not been used for any other species. However this was simply a transfer of the Van Duzee misnomer and as the species occurs on *Chenopodium* and not on *Strobilus* it will avoid confusion to give it a new name and preferably one which indicates its restricted food habit.

Type and paratype specimens of above description in author's collection.

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