Two New Species of Diptera Belonging to Asilinae

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TWO NEW SPECIES OF DIPTERA BELONGING TO ASILINAE.

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Up to the present time only a single species has been placed under each of the genera Machimus and Stilpnogaster. It is possible that others properly belonging here have been described under the genus Asilus where all the old authors placed nearly all their species of the subfamily. This latter genus has not been revised for North America, but all descriptions are accessible, and the two species considered here appear to be distinct from others previously recognized, so are taken to be new. One species belongs to each genus mentioned.

Machimus griseus n. sp. Male and female brownish gray with reddish legs and narrow white annulations at the apexes of the abdominal segments. Wings hyaline with well defined dark markings at the apex and posterior border.

Front and face of usual width, gibbosity of the face prominent extending two-thirds of the distance from the oral margin to the antennae; mystax with black bristles above and white ones below; antennae black, rather long, third segment with its style decidedly longer than the other two segments combined, style equal in length to the other part of the segment; beard white. Thorax dark in ground color but clothed with gray pollen which is denser in some places than in others, thus giving the part a variegated appearance; a wide middorsal black stripe divided anteriorly by a narrow grayish interval; scutellum with two black bristles at the apex; legs red with numerous black bristles, coxae black, all the femora darkened before, except just before the apex of each; wing clear hyaline with dark markings as follows: marginal, submarginal and first posterior cells, each with a stripe which reaches the apex of its respective cell; other posterior, discal and anal cells each with an angular spot not contiguous with the margin of the wing; halteres very pale in color. Abdomen of the same general color as the thorax, with a light colored annulation preceded by a row of nearly white bristles at the apex of each segment. Eighth segment of the male distinctly produced below, but not appendaged as in some of the European species of the genus; male genitalia reddish in color, oviduct shining black. Length of male and female, 17–20 mm.

Habitat: Several specimens from Southwestern Colorado.

The female is larger than the male in the specimens before me. The water clear wings with the well defined markings as described are sufficient to distinguish the species from its near relatives.

Stilpnogaster auriannulatus n. sp. General color shining blue-black with uniform pale brown wings and black and yellow legs.
The second, third and fourth segments of the abdomen each with a golden yellow annulus at its apex.

Front and face rather narrow, the latter covered with golden yellow pollen between the callosity and the antennae, callosity slightly elevated, mystax black, beard white, third segment of the antenna about as long as the other two together, style shorter than the remainder of the segment; thorax dark in ground color, clothed with pollen which is denser in some places than in others, middorsal stripe opaque black, narrowly divided on the anterior part; scutellum with several black bristles at its apex; wing uniformly pale brown all over with a slight intensity of coloration on the margin of the second vein near the middle of its length. Legs black and yellow, a preapical ring on each femur, all the tibiae except at apexes and bases of the tarsal segments yellow, other parts black; hind femora somewhat variable in that the yellow is likely to increase at the expense of the black; halteres yellow. Abdomen shining blue-black, second, third and fourth segments each with a golden yellow annulus at apex not preceded by a row of bristles; eighth segment below not widened but furnished with a conspicuous tuft of erect hair. Genitalia of both sexes shining black, of the male somewhat wider than the abdomen when viewed from above and about as long as the seventh and eighth segments combined. Length 14–17 mm.

Several specimens of both sexes taken in the Hope Mountains of British Columbia by R. V. Harvey and R. S. Sherman of Vancouver, during the first part of July.