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NEW OCCURRENCE AND HOST FOR *TACHINAEPHAGUS ZEALANDICUS* ASHMEAD (HYMENOPTERA: ENCYRTIDAE).¹ *Tachinaephagus zealandicus* Ashmead was found as a parasite of *Tritoxa* (Diptera: Otitidae) in Cincinnati, Ohio. This is a new record for both host and occurrence for *T. zealandicus*. This occurrence suggests a possible means for the spread of *T. zealandicus* in North America.

In the course of work with the genus *Tritoxa* several larvae were obtained by leaving onions in high grass where breeding pairs of *Tritoxa flexa* (Wied.) were seen. Third instar *Tritoxa* larvae were collected from the onions and allowed to pupate in the laboratory. One *Tritoxa* pupa of a group obtained in this manner yielded seven hymenoptera of family Encyrtidae and the other pupae of the group yielded *Tritoxa flexa* imago. Examination of the puparia of this group showed all but one had split on the anterior end in the manner characteristic of Diptera of suborder Cyclorrhapha. The puparium which was not split had a small round hole in the ventral surface of the anterior end, which presumably served as an exit for the parasites.

The Encyrtid parasites were determined by K. S. Hagen, of the Division of Biological Control at the University of California, to be *Tachinaephagus zealandicus* Ashmead.

Tachinaephagus zealandicus normally occurs in Australia and New Zealand (Legner and Olton, 1968). This species

has previously been known only from the East and West coasts of the United States and was first found here in California. In addition *T. zealandicus* has not been known to parasitize Otitid flies (B. D. Burks, Personal communication, October 1973).

Tritoxa flexa is sometimes a pest of onions in storage and in the field (Manis, 1941). The range of *T. flexa* has been given as follows: Manitoba and North Dakota to Connecticut and south to Illinois and Georgia, (Stone, 1965). However, *T. flexa* has also been reported in California (Cole and Schlinger, 1969).

The range of *Tritoxa flexa* and occurrences to date of *Tachinaephagus zealandicus*, along with the present host record, indicate that the spread of *Tachinaephagus zealandicus* in North America could be the result of commercial transportation of onions infested with parasitized *Tritoxa flexa*.—WILLIAM DOWNING. 173 Ireland Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45218.

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¹Note received December 19, 1973 (73-79).