
THE GENUS *PEDITIA* WITH ONE NEW SPECIES.

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The genus *Peditia* includes some of the largest of our Tipulidæ. The antennæ are each composed of sixteen segments. The palpi each have three segments, of which the last is whiplash-like and much longer than the other two taken together. The auxiliary vein ends in the costa. The anterior crossvein is very oblique and is in nearly the same straight line with the inner margin of the discal cell and the posterior crossvein.

When Osten Sacken published Part IV of "Monographs of North American Diptera" he mentioned one species of the genus from this continent, but in his "Western Diptera" he described another. Therefore at the present time there are two recognized species described from America, one from eastern and one from western United States. In "Psyche," Volume VII, 201, Aldrich discusses these species and figures the wing of one of them. In the same volume, page 229, Osten Sacken gives some statements from his manuscript notes, in which he gives further observations on his west coast species and states that in Bigot's collection he has seen a *Peditia* with a very extraordinary modification of the coloration of the wings, and mentions especially a broad, brown border running along the posterior margin of the wing from the root to the apex.

There is before me at the present time a very fine specimen which suggests the last mentioned insect, and which was taken at Port Renfrew, British Columbia, July 27, 1902, by R. C. Osburn, who was at that time teaching zoology at the Minnesota

Seaside Station. As Osten Sacken did not suggest a name for the species, and as I cannot find it described elsewhere, I desire to give it the following :

PEDITIA MAGNIFICA N. SP.

Color of body and legs light brown, wings conspicuously marked with clear brown. Palpi brown, third segment of each more than twice as long as the first two combined; eyes dark brown, a conspicuous brown stripe on each side of the thorax before the wings; knobs of halteres brownish; wings with wide brown costal and posterior margins and with a broad stripe of the same color starting at the base and following the fifth vein to where it meets the brown border of the posterior margin, then turning and following the posterior crossvein, the vein at the inner margin of the discal cell, and the anterior crossvein and thence to the apex of the wing, including the whole of the first submarginal cell. Middorsal stripe on the abdomen rather narrow, slightly darkened but not conspicuous, male forceps short, irregular in form, emarginate at the tip and the inner side at apex rather prominent and furnished with a number of short black spines. The brown markings of the wings are much wider than in any other species that I know, therefore the hyaline spaces are correspondingly narrowed. Total length of the body, 33 mm.; of wing, 28 mm.

Habitat: Port Renfrew, B. C. Described from a single male specimen.

The following key may aid in separating our North American species :

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| 1. Male forceps long, about four millimeters, | <i>obtusa</i> Osten Sacken. |
| Male forceps short, less than two millimeters, | 2. |
| 2. Posterior border of wing hyaline, | <i>albivitta</i> Walker. |
| Posterior border of wing brown, | <i>magnifica</i> Hine. |

There appears to be a variation in some of the species regarding the extent of the brown margin of the fifth vein. Sometimes that part of this vein beyond the posterior crossvein is not margined at all. Osten Sacken has reported such a variation in the European species *rivosa*, and both he and Aldrich have noted the same in *obtusa*; therefore the former has intimated that Walker's *contermina*, which differs from *albivitta* only in this particular, is a synonym of the latter species. Walker also describes a species that he calls *gracilis*, without locality, that, so far as I know, has not been recognized. It does not agree with any of the American species.

Beling has described the immature stages of *rivosa* in Europe. He found the larvae living in and around brooks and springs, also in springy, wet or damp places in mud and earth. Judging from their very strong mandibles they prefer to feed on animal food, such as the larvae of water-beetles. The adults appear mostly in the latter part of August and during September, but occasional individuals may sometimes be seen earlier.

I find no account of the early stages of any of our species.