

*The***FLORIDA ENTOMOLOGIST**Official Organ of The Florida Entomological Society, Gainesville,
Florida.

Vol. XIV, No. 2

June, 1930

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Society.Subscription price to non-members is \$1.00 per year in ad-
vance; 35 cents per copy.**ANOTHER IMPORTED ANT**

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Probably no state in the union has a larger number of introduced ants than Florida. This peculiar condition is no doubt due to a number of causes, chief among which may be enumerated the following: (1) that Florida is constantly being visited by many tourists; (2) being a seaboard state she is in direct communication with many foreign ports; and (3) on account of the semi-tropical climate nearly any ant that is imported into her borders is almost sure to thrive outdoors.

Some of the imported ants that have been noted to occur in this state are the following: *Monomorium pharaonis* (Linn.), *Solenopsis geminata* subsp. *rufa* (Jerdon), *Tetramorium guineense* (Fabr.), *Wasmannia auropunctata* (Roger), *Tapinoma melanocephalum* (Fabr.), *Paratrechina longicornis* (Latr.) and *Camponotus socius* Roger. That the Argentine ant *Iridomyrmex humilis* Mayr has not yet been recorded from Florida is indeed remarkable.

Recently I received for determination a number of specimens of ants which were collected at Miami, by Mr. S. O. Hill. Among the lot was one species which I had never seen before from North America. With the available literature the ants were determined as a species of *Paratrechina* (*Nylanderia*). Realizing that the species was no doubt either a new species or else an imported one, very probably the latter, I submitted specimens to Dr. Wheeler who identified the ants as a variety of *Prenolepis*

(*Nylanderia*) *bourbonica*, Forel, the type of which is known from Madagascar. This variety was very probably introduced into Florida on plants.

Mr. Hill in remarking about the habits of the ants stated that the workers were observed running over sand and the pavement of sidewalks at Miami. It would appear that this species is not only well established at Miami but that it is capable of living outdoors. Whether the species will prove to be a house infesting form is not known, but it would appear that there might be a strong possibility of this since a number of our native *Paratrechina* (*Nylanderia*) have this habit.

Following is the synonymy of the species: *P. bourbonica* Forel, Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. Vol. 30, p. 210 (1886) worker, female, male. (*Prenolepis nodifera bourbonica*) Reunion, Isle Pemba.

Prenolepis bourbonica, Forel, in Grandidier Hist. Nat. Madagascar, Vol. 20, 2, p. 82, pl. 3, fig. 2 (1891) worker, female, male; Emery, Nova. Caledonia, Zool. Vol. 1, p. 422 nota (1914) worker.

AN OUTBREAK OF THE CORN SYRPHUS FLY

By J. R. WATSON AND A. N. TISSOT

The larvae of *Mesogramma polita* Say, have food habits very unusual for a syrphus fly, most of which feed on aphids and other small insects, tho some are scavengers. The larvae became extremely abundant in a corn field near Waldo, Fla., in early June. They appeared in such large numbers on the tassels and the leaves as to attract attention of the owner of the field and cause him considerable alarm. In response to an S.O.S. from him, the field was visited by the writers. By that time the larvae had almost disappeared; only one was seen. But there were large numbers of pupae, especially on the leaves. In some cases as many as five pupae were taken from a single leaf.

In Insect Life, Volume I, p. 5, there is an account under the name of *Mesograpta polita*, of two similar outbreaks of this syrphus fly. One in New Jersey and the other in Florida. In the previous outbreak in Florida, the larvae were observed to be feeding upon the stalks of corn where they caused soft discolored places. In the New Jersey outbreak they were recorded as feeding exclusively on pollen. In the field at Waldo no damage to the stalks was seen. The larvae apparently confined themselves exclusively to pollen. They had fed extensively on the tassels, and those found on the leaves had undoubtedly been feeding on pollen grains which had fallen there. They had caused no apparent damage to the corn. It seems probable that this insect is by preference a pollen feeder and feeds on the other parts of corn only when forced to do so by hunger. A noteworthy characteristic of this outbreak was the fact that the maggots appeared in such large numbers suddenly and disappeared as suddenly. Twenty-four hours after the farmer had first noticed their presence on the corn, they had almost entirely disappeared, although plenty of adults were found flying about. Puparia collected from this field were found to be highly parasited by two as yet undetermined species of Hymenoptera.