

A NEW SPECIES OF *HAPLAXIUS*, WITH
A KEY TO CALIFORNIA SPECIES

(Homoptera: Cixiidae)

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The genus *Haplaxius* was erected by Fowler (1904) for two Mexican species. Later, Caldwell (1946) pointed out that this name should also be applied to the species which had been included in the genus *Myndus* Stål in American literature. Caldwell includes 28 species in the genus, two of which were described from California. A third California species is described in this paper. It is one of the most distinctively marked species of the genus.

Haplaxius gabrielensis Flock, new species

Similar to *mojavensis* (Ball), but with basal and subbasal bands on the elytra, and lateral margins of frons more broadly expanded.

Female: Vertex slender, narrower at apex than at base. Frons 2.6 times as wide at apex as at base (0.19 : 0.50 mm.), wider than long (0.62 : 0.59 mm.), with a slight median carina. Pronotum two-thirds as long as eyes, and deeply, angularly emarginate posteriorly. Elytral nervures heavily setigerous; the cubitus forking far back, forming a cell only twice as long as broad; stigma cell almost semicircular.

Color, dark above and paler below. Vertex dark. Frons brownish with indication of black inside the base of the lateral carinae. Clypeus with disc brown, darker on sides. Pronotum pale with dark-brown areas behind the eyes. Mesonotum pale posteriorly, with a small dark area outside the carinae, and a large dark area on anterior half between the carinae. Elytra light, with basal dark band extending to apex of mesonotum, subapical dark band within basal third of elytra, apical third dark except for five transparent areas extending basally along some of the veins; part of apical veins white. Length, 4.12 mm.

Male: Dark areas considerably reduced, both in size and in intensity. Pygopher longer than wide, posterior ventral margin excavated in middle, with a short, broad, median process having a triangular apex reaching to the broadened apical portion of the style. Anal segment short, broad; ventral side concave, forming a hood over the genital capsule; telson dorsal. Styles boot-shaped, inner angle rounded, outer angle and apex truncate. Aedeagus in ventral view

with one large apical spine and a small subapical spine curving towards the anterior, and one smaller subapical spine curving in a posterior direction; in lateral view with large, erect ventral spine extending in an anterior direction. Length, 4.0 mm.

Holotype female, *allotype* male, and 14 *paratypes* taken from Our Lord's Candle (*Yucca whipplei* Torr.), SAN GABRIEL Mts., CALIFORNIA, at 4500 feet, July 10, 1950 (R. A. Flock). Types in author's collection. Paratypes to be placed in the collections of the University of California at Berkeley and at Riverside, in the United States National Museum, and in the Snow Collection at the University of Kansas.

HAPLAXIUS MOJAVENSIS (Ball)

Myndus mojavensis Ball, 1933 Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci. 23:480.

The types were collected at Mojave, California, on Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia* Engelm.) by E. D. Ball. I have since taken it in the San Jacinto Mts., California, Sept. 29, 1948, on *Agave deserti* Engelm. The specimens were compared with the type by David A. Young of the Division of Insect Identification, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture.

HAPLAXIUS OCCIDENTALIS (Van Duzee)

Myndus occidentalis Van Duzee, 1914, Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist. 2:39.

This species appears to be fairly widespread in southern California. It is usually found in damp places in washes, on grasses and sedges. Several of the specimens were also taken on *Baccharis viminea* DC. The type locality is Lakeside, California, May, 1913; Van Duzee, collector. It has been taken on a sticky board hung in a citrus tree April 25 to May 9, 1947 (R. C. Dickson), during an investigation of possible vectors of "quick decline", a virus disease of citrus.

Key to Reported California Species

- A. Elytra with definite markings between the veins.
 - B. Elytra with markings at apex.....*mojavensis*
 - BB. Elytra with basal and subbasal dark bands and apical markings.....*gabrielensis*
- AA. Elytra without definite markings between the veins.....*occidentalis*

LITERATURE CITED

- FOWLER, W. W.
1904. Biologia Centrali-Americana, Hemiptera-Homoptera. 1:97-8, pl. 10.
- CALDWELL, J. S.
1946. Notes on *Haplaxius* Fowler with descriptions of new species. Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash. 48:203-6, 1 pl.