

Comments on Some Morphological Characters of Nymphal Planthoppers (Homoptera: Fulgoroidea).—STEPHEN W. WILSON, Department of Biology, Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093.*

First through fifth instar nymphs of *Delphacodes bellicosa* Muir and Giffard and *Megamelus davisii* Van Duzee were used to illustrate and compare the development of following nymphal features: antennal sensoria, pits on the head, thorax and abdomen, dentition of the metatibiae and metatarsomeres, number of metatarsomeres, shape and dentition of the metatibial spur, and size of the mesonotal wingpads.

Comparison of the structure of the metatibial spurs in second through fifth instars of *M. davisii* with those of representative adults of Muir's delphacid subfamilies and tribes was made to show the possible application of information on nymphal morphology in classification. The role of heterochronic events on retention of juvenile features was considered, and examples involving brachyptery in *Pissonotus* sp., facial carinae in *Prokelisia* spp., and nymphal pits in *Laccocera* sp. were presented.