

THE FIRST RECORD OF *MEGAMELUS PALAETUS* IN ILLINOIS  
(HOMOPTERA: FULGOROIDEA: DELPHACIDAE)

*Megamelus palaetus* (Van Duzee) has been recorded from Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and New York. Its only known host plant is pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata* L.) (Beamer, J. Kansas Entomol. Soc., 28:29-46, 1955; Denno, Can. Entomol., 110:135-142, 1978) which occurs along shorelines and in standing water of ponds and lakes from Nova Scotia west to Ontario and south to Texas and Florida.

We recently found one male *palaetus* from Illinois among unidentified fulgoroid material in the Western Illinois University (WIU) insect collection, Macomb. This specimen agreed with several identified by Beamer as *palaetus* and housed in the U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. The label information is as follows: Union Co.: Pine Hills Field Station, 23 July 1966, coll. Y. Sedman. The specimen is deposited in the WIU insect collection.

In order to confirm the presence of a population of *palaetus* in Illinois, we went to Alexander County in southern Illinois to examine a known stand of pickerelweed. Seven adults (three males, four females) were collected in this stand; the label information is as follows: Alexander Co.: Horseshoe Lake, 13 August 1979, S. W. Wilson, coll. The specimens are housed in the Entomology Collection, Zoology Research Museum, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale (two males, three females), and the Illinois Natural History Survey Collection, Urbana (one male, one female).

Although these specimens support the apparent southern distribution of *palaetus*, it is possible that it occurs throughout most of the range of its host plant and, if so, would explain the New York record of Metcalf (in: Leonard, Mem. Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta., 101:176-182, 1928) which presently appears to be questionable. However, it may be absent in northern areas because of unfavorable temperatures, length of growing season, or some other factor or factors.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank Dr. Y. S. Sedman, Western Illinois University, Macomb, for allowing us to examine the WIU fulgoroid collection, and the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Sigma Xi, and the Graduate School and College of Science, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, for providing the senior author with funds to visit the U.S. National Museum.

S. W. Wilson and J. E. McPherson  
Department of Zoology  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901.

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE OCCURRENCE OF *OECLEUS CHRISJOHNI* AND  
*O. EPETRION* IN ILLINOIS (HOMOPTERA: FULGOROIDEA: CIXIIDAE)

Kramer (Trans. Amer. Entomol. Soc., 103:379-449, 1977), in his recent revision of the genus *Oecleus*, recorded 40 species from the United States, three of which occurred east of the Mississippi River. Only two species, *O. borealis* Van Duzee and *O. productus* Metcalf, were listed for Illinois.

We recently found several male specimens of *O. chrisjohni* Kramer and *O. epetrium* Kramer from Illinois among unidentified *Oecleus* material in the Illinois Natural History Survey Collection, Urbana. Although no adequate keys for the identification of females exist, collecting dates and locations and similarity of appearance of the sexes permitted female specimens to be matched with males and, thus, tentatively identified. The label information, to which we have added the county names, is as follows:

*Oecleus chrisjohni* Kramer: Mercer Co., Keithsburg, 15 June 1932, seven males, nine females, coll. H. L. Dozier. Carroll Co., Thomson, 30 June 1935, two males, four females, DeLong & Ross; Thomson (sand prairie), 4 July 1936, one female, DeLong & Burks.

*Oecleus epetrium* Kramer: Johnson Co., W. Vienna (on *Salix*), 16 July 1948, three males, Sand. & Stannard. Pike Co., Pike (Mississippi flood plain), 28 June 1934, one male, two females, De Long & Ross. LaSalle Co., Starved Rock, 14 July 1932, one male, Dozier & Park.

The specimens are deposited in collections as follows: two males, two females *O. chrisjohni*, Keithsburg, two males *O. epetrium*, W. Vienna, Entomology Collection, Zoology Research Museum, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; one male, one female *O. chrisjohni*, Keithsburg, one male, one female *O. chrisjohni*, Thomson (30 June), one male, one female *O. epetrium*, Pike, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C.; the remaining specimens are housed in the Illinois Natural History Survey Collection, Urbana.

Kramer (1977) included two keys to male *Oecleus*, one to all species occurring in the continental U.S., and one to those occurring east of the Mississippi River (three species). He did not include *O. chrisjohni* and *O. epetrium* in the key to the eastern U.S. species because they were known only from Tyler and Kerrville, Texas, respectively. Using the eastern U.S. key, *O. chrisjohni* most closely resembles *O. borealis* and *O. tamiamus* Ball and Klingenberg in that the three species have two processes on the left margin of the aedeagal shaft in ventral view. However, these two processes are less than half the length of the shaft, not long and slender as in *O. borealis* and *O. tamiamus*. *O. epetrium* is similar to *O. productus* in that the aedeagus only has one process on the left margin of the shaft, but this process is slender and needlelike in *O. epetrium* and stout in *O. productus*.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank Mr. Donald W. Webb, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, for the loan of specimens, and Dr. James P. Kramer, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., for confirming the identifications.

S. W. Wilson and J. E. McPherson  
Department of Zoology  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901