

NOTES ON THE FLIES OF THE GENUS PSEUDODINIA, WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES.

By J. R. MALLOCH,
Of Urbana, Illinois.

In a synopsis of the genera of North American Agromyzidae in 1913¹ I included the genus *Pseudodinia* in Oethiphilinae. I did so because I considered that the species had closer relationship to *Oethiphila* than to any other genus, and this view I still hold. Melander, in his synoptic review of Agromyzidae and Geomyzidae,² has placed the genus in Geomyzidae. From his own tables I gather that the reason for this can only lie in the presence of the mesopleural bristle and the color of the species. At least these are practically the only characters which prevent one using the subfamily key given by Melander from placing the species where they obviously belong. It is not necessary that I should lay stress upon the fact that neither of the characters above mentioned are of subfamily value. On page 225 of Melander's paper is given a tabulation of characters for the separation of the families Agromyzidae and Geomyzidae from allied families. In the first column it is indicated that the costa in Geomyzidae is once broken. *Pseudodinia* has no costal break, as is indicated in the generic table given in a subsequent part of the same paper. It is unnecessary that I should enter into a lengthy discussion as to the generic position of *Pseudodinia*, but in closing I may perhaps more readily impress upon the students the fact that the genus bears more than a passing resemblance to *Oethiphila* by stating that Coquillett, who described the genus, made the mistake of labeling a specimen in the United States National Museum collection "*Oethiphila* n. sp." This species I labeled provisionally "*Pseudodinia pruinosa* n. sp." but afterwards refrained from describing it because of certain facts subsequently discovered from an examination of a series of specimens in another collection.

The table given in my paper previously referred to will serve to correctly place the species of this genus generically. The species

¹ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 46, 1913, pp. 127-154.

² Journ. New Jersey Ent. Soc., vol. 21, 1913.

described herewith, while differing considerably in the chaetotaxy of the head, is in every other respect so obviously congeneric with *varipes*, the type of the genus, that I have no hesitation in placing it in *Pseudodinia*.

PSEUDODINIA POLITA, new species.

Female.—Glossy black. Head black; frons shining; arista yellowish at base; palpi brown; proboscis yellow. Body without pruinescence. Legs yellow; coxae brownish-black; femora, except the apices, black. Wings yellow at base, clear; veins brown. Squamae white, fringe concolorous. Halteres yellow, knob lemon-yellow, hairs and bristles black.

Frons about twice as long as broad, slightly narrowed anteriorly; postvertical bristles small; ocellar bristles very weak, lying close to surface of frons; the normal two pairs of orbital bristles very weak, almost indistinguishable, and placed far back on frons, the lower well above middle; transverse depression distinct and shallow; frontal triangle slightly indicated; antennae small, third joint rounded apically, slightly longer than broad; arista rather thick, tapering at base, almost bare; cheek linear, marginal hairs weak; vibrissae absent; eyes large, distinctly higher than long. Mesonotum with two pairs of dorso-centrals; discal setulae short and numerous, about 12 irregular rows between dorso-centrals; basal scutellar bristles weaker than apical; mesopleural bristle strong. Fore femora with black bristles on the postero-ventral surface; mid tibiae with apical spur; all tarsi slightly thickened. Wing veins 3 and 4 divergent apically; inner cross vein at middle of discal cell; last section of fifth vein about two-thirds as long as penultimate section of fourth; last section of fourth twice as long as preceding section; sixth vein to near wing margin. Length, 2.5–3 mm.

The male agrees with the female in color and chaetotaxy. The hypopygium is small and knoblike, turned down and slightly forward under the abdomen, and is in general appearance very much like that of *Agromyza parvicornis* Loew.

Type-locality.—Centerville, Illinois, August 17, 1914, by sweeping vegetation on the bank of the Sangamon River (C. A. Hart and J. R. Malloch). Paratype, Urbana, September 30, 1914 (J. R. Malloch). This species may be separated from the 3 previously described species by the entirely yellow tibiae. On September 30 I took a single female of *P. nitida* Melander at Urbana.

Paratype.—Cat. No. 19395, U.S.N.M.