

STEIROXYS HENDERSONI, A NEW KATYDID FROM UTAH.

By A. N. CAUDELL,

Custodian of Orthoptera, United States National Museum.

Description, male and female.—General size and appearance much as in *S. pallidipalpus*. Head and pronotum scarcely exhibiting differentiating characters, the lateral carina of the latter varying from almost straight to slightly incurved at the anterior fourth and the disk always noticeably, though very moderately, broader posteriorly. Organs of flight essentially as in previously described forms. Legs long and not noticeably differing from those of other species. Cerci of the male very different from those of any described species of the genus; the main body is sub-cylindrical, gently flattened basally and slightly more so apically, especially on the inner side; a sharp, slender, chitinized spine, straight and directed caudad and inwardly, arises on the outer apical margin of the cercus, situated on a terminal hump; the dorsal half of the inner apical terminus of the cercus is prolonged into a slender strongly incurved and apically gently upcurved process, gradually narrowing to an acute chitinized point, the whole almost as long as the main body of the cercus; the general appearance, from a dorso-lateral view, is shown by the present sketch and illustrates it better than a description can do. Ovipositor gently curved upwards, scarcely differing from those of other described species of this genus.



FIG. 1.—CERCUS OF MALE, DORSO-LATERAL VIEW.

Color varying from greenish to brown, mostly yellowish-brown in dried material; the lateral lobes of the pronotum are unicolorous or somewhat darkened, and the caudal margin is often more or less strongly marked with yellowish-white.

Measurements.—Length, pronotum, male, 6.9 mm., female, 7 mm.; posterior femora, male, 21 mm., female, 22 mm.; ovipositor, 18 mm.; width, pronotal disk posteriorly, male, 4 mm., female, 4 mm.; posterior femora at widest point, male, 3.75 mm., females, 4 mm.

Type locality.—Dry Lake, Utah.

Described from 6 males and 12 females, all adults; W. W. Henderson, collector; October 3, 1921. Type, male, allotype, female, paratypes A to E, males, and F. to P, females.

Type, allotype, and paratypes A to C and F to K in United States National Museum.—Catal. No. 25492, U. S. N. M.

Paratypes D to E and L to P returned to Prof. W. W. Henderson.

Aside from coloration, and that varying but little in dried material, there is not much variation noticeable in the 18 examples of the present species examined. The size varies very slightly, the posterior femora ranging from 20 to 21 mm. in length in the males and 20 to 22 mm. in the females, and the ovipositor from 15 to 18 mm.; but the cerci of the males varies scarcely at all.

The coloration of living specimens is evidently rather different from that of cabinet material, as shown by the following note extracted from a recent letter from the collector, in whose honor this species is named.

This species is numerous in September in one of our high mountain valleys. I do not have the specific elevation, but estimate it to be about 5,500 feet. The valley is very small, hedged in by high mountains and contains only a few hundred acres. I have not observed this species anywhere else in the State. Females were especially numerous in an adjoining alfalfa field. Males were very much less numerous, or at least more difficult to find. I took considerable time in finding the few males which I have in the collection. I might add in relation to the *Decticinaens* that they have lost color considerably. Some of them when captured are a rich dark green in color and others a rich brown. A few of them have a broad light band extending the full length of the dorsal surface. I do not know the significance of this band.

The species described above is so evidently distinct from any hitherto known that it is deemed well to characterize it in spite of the unsatisfactory systematic condition of the genus into which it falls. This seems the more desirable from the fact that some light is shed on the supposed variability of cereal structure as discussed by the writer some years ago,¹ From the several specimens of both sexes on which the present species is based and the above-quoted note by the collector, it is seen that the coloration varies, as indicated by the writer in his previous notes; but the variation of the cerci of the males, to judge from the half dozen adult specimens of that sex examined, is decidedly less than formerly supposed. Thus the variously formed cerci noted in the former article may be indicative of specific distinctness, and thus this genus may eventually be found to include at least half a dozen distinct species, many of which, including the one here described, will very likely prove rather restricted in their distribution.

¹ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 32, pp. 405-409, 1907.