Vol. XXVII October, 1951 No. 4

THE

PAN-PACIFIC ENTOMOLOGIST

Published by the

Pacific Coast Entomological Society

in cooperation with

The California Academy of Sciences

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San Francisco, California

1951

foveae minute. Elytra long oval, somewhat produced and sub-acuminate at apex, sparsely punctured; black, each with two large yellow marks, anterior of these encloses the humerus, leaving a circular area on the umbone black; inner margin tri-dentate. The posterior yellow marking is pre-apical and it conforms in shape to the elytron, tapering apically. In its center is a rounded black spot and it emits two rays from its anterior margin. The prosternum is very broad, deeply but not thickly punctured. Mesosternum very short, almost linearly transverse. Metasternum coarsely and sparsely punctured. Legs short and stout. Length 4.5 mm.

Holotype: Sex? TA HAN, HAINAN, VI-24-35, L. Gressitt (Calif. Acad. Sciences).

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NESTING HABITS OF STENIOLIA NIGRIPES PARKER

(Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)

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In the late forenoon of April 25, 1949, the author found a colony of the bembicine wasp, *Steniolia nigripes* Parker, nesting in a small rocky valley at Yaqui Well, Borego Desert, San Diego County,

California. Since there are no published accounts of the nesting habits or prey utilized by this or any other species of *Steniolia*, observations which were made at the time may prove of interest.

The nesting site was a level patch of bare soil among the rocks of the side and approximately ten feet above the floor of the narrow valley. The soil was compact but somewhat friable, composed of a coarse, granitic sand with a powdery base. When the site was first located four female wasps were actively digging. Males were seen to visit the area occasionally, but no matings were observed. A bombyliid fly, *Lepidanthrax* sp.[1] was flying about six inches behind one of the females as she returned to her nest, and alighted on the ground about four inches from the nest entrance when the wasp entered. The wasp was making frequent short flights between periods of digging, and so persistent was the fly in following that she was easily captured in an insect net, along with the wasp, by swinging at the wasp in flight. The wasp was released and returned in five minutes or so, approaching her nest several times before finally entering and resuming excavation.

Nest openings, perhaps made in large part by emerging wasps, were scattered over a circular area some seven or eight feet in diameter. Toward the center, an area nineteen inches wide by twenty-nine inches long was excavated to a depth of not less than eighteen inches. Forty-one empty cocoons and one containing a live wasp were removed. The average depth of the cocoons was 3½ inches, with a range between 2½ and 4½ inches. Entrance tunnels were typically short and unbranched, slanting directly to the level of the cocoon, then turned to the horizontal and almost immediately expanded into an oval cell. There was also a tendency for them to deviate around rocks, and to join or ramify, possibly caused by an annual accumulation of tunnels and cells. Three cocoons were found together in an enlarged chamber beneath a buried rock, and may have been from the same or from different years.

A single bombyliid, *Aphoebantus ?hirsutus* Coq. was encountered during excavation, and had probably been stored as prey, since two others, *Aphoebantus hirsutus* Coq. and *Aphoebantus* sp., near *tardus* Coq. were taken from wasps which returned after excavation of the site had begun.

[1]All Diptera kindly determined by Dr. F. R. Cole.