

THE PAN-PACIFIC ENTOMOLOGIST



CONTENTS

SCHUSTER & GRIGARICK—A revision of the genus <i>Rhexidius</i> Casey....	1
MOORE & PARKER—A host of <i>Pyria inaequidens</i> (Dahlbom).....	14
JEWETT—New stoneflies and records from the Pacific Coast of the United States	15
THORP—Notes on the distributions of some bumblebees of western North America	21
BOYLE—A new species of <i>Triplax</i> from Arizona	29
MIDDLEKAUFF—Notes and description of the previously unknown male of <i>Sirex longicauda</i> Middlekauff	31
DENNING—New <i>Trichoptera</i>	33
PHILIP & STEFFAN—New North American <i>Tabanidae</i> . XIV	41
LINSLEY & MAC SWAIN—A new species of <i>Sphecodogastra</i> associated with <i>Oenothera</i> in eastern Utah, New Mexico and western Texas.....	45
LINSLEY & MAC SWAIN—New species of <i>Onagrandrena</i> associated with <i>Oenothera</i> in California, Nevada and Wyoming	49
XVI International Congress of Zoology	52
CHEMSAK & THORP—Note on the sleeping habits of males of <i>Melissodes robustior</i> Cockerell	53
MIDDLEKAUFF—Emergence of <i>Stromatium longicorne</i> (Newman) from an imported cypress chest	56
SCULLEN—Synonymical notes on the genus <i>Cerceris</i> —IV	57
EVANS—Notes on the biology and dispersal of <i>Melanophila</i>	59
MENKE—Notes on two species of sphecine wasps described by H. T. Fernald from South America	63
BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS	28, 39, 40, 43, 48, 55, 62, 64, 73
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE	44, 48, 73
PROCEEDINGS, Pacific Coast Entomological Society, 1961	65
MORRIS ALBION STEWART	71

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NOTES ON TWO SPECIES OF SPHECINE WASPS
DESCRIBED BY H. T. FERNALD FROM
SOUTH AMERICA

(Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)

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During a recent visit at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, I studied the types of *Chlorion davis* and *C. simillimum*, both described by Fernald in 1907. *C. davis* should be assigned to the genus *Sphex sensu stricto*, and *simillimum* to *Prionyx*, species group *thomae*.

Examination of the unique female type of *davis* (MCZ type #14347) reveals that it agrees in every detail with the African species *Sphex metallicus* Taschenberg, and should be relegated to synonymy. The locality label on Fernald's type reads Cordova, Argentina. Willink (1951) in his review of the Argentine and Chilean Sphecinae, did not list any material of Fernald's species and only quoted the original description. It seems safe to assume that the specimen on which Fernald based his description was labeled in error and originated in Africa.

Prionyx (Priononyx) simillimus (MCZ type #14348) was described from three specimens, two males and a female, all labeled cotypes. I am designating one of the males as lectotype, and have placed a lectotype label with the specimen. In his description Fernald stated that sternite VI of the male was deeply emarginate. It is true that one of the males appears to have this feature, but close examination proves that the emargination was caused by the breaking away of part of the sternite. In the other male the sternite is entire. Fernald did not mention the distinct fossulae of the male antenna. In *simillimus*, flagellomeres III-VI have broad, spiculate fossulae, and VII has a short triangular fossula.

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