A NEW SPECIES OF *MICROSTIGMUS* (HYM. SPHEGID.).

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Microstigmus myersi, sp. n. (fig. 1).

♀. Nigro-aenea, nitida; mandibulis, antennis (articulo apicali excepto), tegulis pedibusque, luteis; alis hyalinis, iridescentibus; venis fuscis, basi luteis. Long. 3·5 mm.

♀. Antennae short, the first joint of the flagellum longer than the second, which is a little longer than broad, joints 3–9 as broad as long, the two apical joints distinctly longer, the apical joint somewhat thickened and longer than the penultimate. Clypeus convex, with a low longitudinal carina, produced into a point at the apex. Eyes almost parallel on the inner margin, without marginal carinae, reaching

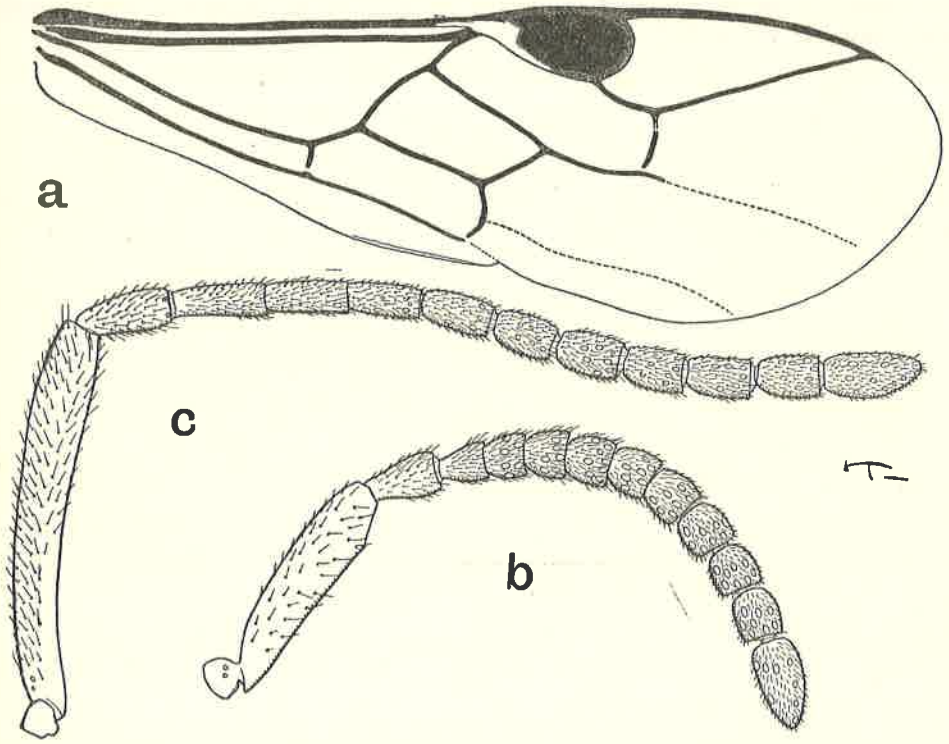

Fig. 1. *Microstigmus myersi*, sp. n.: *a* and *b*, forewing and antenna. Antenna of *M. theridii* shown at *c*.

the base of the mandibles. Head broader than the mesonotum by one quarter, narrowed behind the eyes, posterior ocelli separated from each other by a distance less than the diameter of one ocellus. Head and thorax shining, closely, but microscopically, punctured; pronotum strongly narrowed anteriorly, depressed anteriorly and margined by a low transverse carina; scutellum with a crenulated groove anteriorly. Median segment with two carinae on each side converging towards the apex, the space between the carinae transversely striated. Abdomen smooth and shining, subpetiolate; no pygidial area. Neuration as in *M. theridii*, Dücke, the type of the genus which occurs in the same locality.

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Differs from *M. theridii* in the much shorter antennae, with different proportion of the joints ; also in colour and the much stronger sculpture of the median segment. In *M. theridii* also the eyes are widely separated from the base of the mandibles.

Dr. Myers writes : " The Pteromalid associated with the Collembola is indubitably a parasite of *Microstigmus*. The parasite eats up the stored Collembola, but I am not certain at what stage the host egg or larva is devoured. I have found one Sminthurid among the prey, but most are Entomobryids. I am exceedingly interested in Dücke's remarks on *Microstigmus*. He has evidently been misled by a bad guess of Goeldi. The nest is woven closely of plant fibre and suspended by a long thin thread from the underside of a leaf, very much like an egg-bag of a Theridiid spider, though I must confess I was not struck with the resemblance before. You will note Dücke does not record the presence of any spiders themselves. The new species has distinct habits. The nest is suspended under banks and tree roots in dense forest, and while it resembles that of *M. theridii* in shape, it has numerous earth pellets incorporated in the walls."