

## A New Species of the *Leptocera lutosa* Complex (Diptera: Sphaeroceridae)

By CURTIS W. SABROSKY, Entomology Research Branch,  
Agricultural Research Service, United States  
Department of Agriculture

In 1949 (Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., 51: 1-24, 3 pls.) I published a revision of a group of fifteen closely related species of *Leptocera*, twelve of which were new and many of which had been erroneously identified in collections as *lutosa* (Stenhammar). Another new species in this complex has been found in Florida, and it is described here.

### *Leptocera weemsi* new species

Species of the *lutosa* complex (cf. group characters listed by Sabrosky, *loc. cit.*, p. 2) with four pairs of dorsocentral bristles, a strong pair of acrosticals, chiefly black antennae, uniformly dark gray to black thorax, and bright yellow halteres.

Male, female.—Black to blackish gray, the front anteriorly and third antennal segments mesally toward the base obscurely reddish; legs brown to blackish brown, the tarsi paler, knees and trochanters yellowish; wings brownish tinted; halteres bright yellow.

Interfrontal bristles four in each row, the front and hind bristles weak, the middle two strong, the second from the front slightly stronger than the third; the gray median stripe of pollen anterior to median ocellus narrow, on each side separated by a dark area greater than its own width from the gray interfrontal stripe; occiput with two pale gray areas flanking a dark median postocellar area; facial tubercle narrow, rounded, widening and flattening above between the antennae. Mesonotum with four strong, evenly spaced pairs of dorsocentrals, the posterior pair strongest; nine rows of acrostical setae between the dorsocentrals on anterior half of mesonotum; one well-developed pair of acrostical bristles, slightly anterior to and half as long as the second dorsocentral pair, and flanking the single median



row of acrostical hairs. Preapical anteroventral bristles on hind femora weak and little longer than clothing hairs; hind tibiae with only weak appressed hairs anteriorly and anteroventrally, and the anterodorsal and posterodorsal bristles weak and inconspicuous. Wings similar to "*lutosa*" as figured by Spuler (1924, *Annals Ent. Soc. Amer.*, 17: plate 18, fig. 1), but the outer posterior corner of discal cell angulate and with short appendage.

Male terminalia small, chiefly blackish brown, sparsely set with short hairs; posterior lobe of ninth tergite (cf. terminology of Sabrosky, *loc. cit.*, p. 3) relatively weak; genital forceps slender, almost bristlelike, apically acute; posterior margin of sternite IV strongly concave, sternite V narrow and padlike.

Female terminalia small and inconspicuous; dorsal aspect similar to that of *L. forceps* (Sabrosky, *loc. cit.*, fig. 34), but the dorsal plate broad and thus relatively short, three times as long as broad in middle, its posterior apex obtusely angulate, and a pair of strong setae midway on sides of posterior margin as in *L. michigana* (Sabrosky, *loc. cit.*, fig. 36); last visible sternite with hind margin straight, not produced on midline.

Length, 1.75 mm.

*Holotype* male, *allotype*, and two *paratypes*, one of each sex, Alachua County, FLORIDA, Nov. 17, 1953 (H. V. Weems, Jr.); *paratype* male, same locality and collector, Jan. 30, 1954. Type and *allotype* in the U. S. National Museum (Type No. 63003) by courtesy of the collector; *paratypes* in the collection of the Florida State Plant Board, Gainesville, Florida.

This species is close to the southeastern *L. spuleri* Sabrosky, notably in the possession of four pairs of dorsocentral bristles and a posteriorly angulate discal cell. The former of these characters distinguishes *spuleri* and *weemsi* from the other species in the complex, which have five pairs, although the second is usually shorter than the other bristles. However, *weemsi* is easily distinguished from *spuleri* by the characters used in the following couplets, which will replace couplet 2 of my previous key:



2. Dorsocentral bristles in four evenly spaced pairs, all strong.....2a  
 Dorsocentrals in five pairs, the second usually weaker than the others.....3  
 2a. No acrostical bristles; eight rows of approximately equal hairs between the dorsocentrals on anterior half of mesonotum; third antennal segments distinctly reddish yellow on inner surfaces; four setae in each interfrontal row, the second long and bristlelike, the others weak; mesonotum light gray with three usually rather distinct stripes, especially when viewed from behind.....*L. spuleri* Sabrosky  
 One pair of strong acrosticals, opposite the second dorsocentrals; nine rows of acrostical hairs anteriorly, the single median row passing between the acrosticals; third antennal segments almost entirely black; four interfrontal setae in each row, the anterior and posterior weak, the middle two strong; mesonotum uniformly dark, blackish gray.....  
 .....*L. weemsi*, new species

### Nomenclature Notice

All comments relating to the following should be marked with the Commission's File Number and sent to Francis Hemming, 28 Park Village East, Regent's Park, London N.W. 1, England.

**Lepisma** Linnaeus 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Thysanura), attribution of a gender for, in harmony with accustomed usage (File: Z.N. (S.) 988).

For details see: Bull. Zool. Nomencl. Vol. 11, Part 9.

Curtis (J.), 1837, **A Guide to an Arrangement of British Insects** (Ed. 2), suppression of, for purposes of selections of type species of genera (File: Z.N. (S.) 298).

For details see: Bull. Zool. Nomencl. Vol. 9, Part 12.



Sabrosky, Curtis W. 1956. "A new species of the *Leptocera lutos*a complex (Diptera: Sphaeroceridae)." *Entomological news* 67, 74–76.

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