

A NEW GALL MIDGE PEST OF TOYON BERRIES

(Diptera: Itonididae)

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Toyon or Christmas berry, *Photinia arbutifolia* (Ait.) Lindl., is a native California shrub that is often planted as an ornamental because of its large clusters of red berries. Gall midge larvae may feed in the berries and prevent them from developing. L. W. Swan, in connection with a study of the insects on toyon, recently reared adults of this midge. They represent a new species, and it is described in order to provide a name for use in connection with the biological studies.

Asphondylia photiniae Pritchard, new species

Photiniae resembles most other North American species of the genus *Asphondylia* by having three palpal segments. No morphological characters have been used by previous workers to distinguish these species, and each is regarded as being host specific.

Male—Eye bridge very broad. Palpus three segmented, the first very short, the second several times as long as broad, the third long, slender, and narrowing at distal end. Flagellum with 12 segments, the more distal segments slightly decreasing in size. Mesonotum dark brown with geminate, pale and setose median vittae and a pale, setose lateral margin; scutellum brown, densely setose. Wings pale brownish. Claw simple, strongly curved near distal end; empodium moderately broad, as long as claws. Abdomen moderately clothed with short curved setae. Hypopygium with tenth tergite very deeply and triangularly bilobed; tenth sternite widened from base to middle, narrowing beyond middle, and narrowly and deeply emarginate mediodistally; tegmen slender, acutely angulate distally and extending well beyond tenth segment; basiforceps with apodeme slender and parallel sided except for broad, rounded expansion near origin; distiforceps short and plump, with two strong teeth distally. Length of body 3 mm.; length of wing 3.5 mm.

Female—Similar to male, the flagellum, however, with distal segments strongly shortened, the terminal segment broader than long and with a small distal nipple. Unextended opipositor about one-half as long as abdomen. Length of body, excluding extensible portion of ovipositor 3.5 mm.; length of wing 4 mm.

Holotype: Male, Palo Alto, California, May 14, 1951 (L. W. Swan), reared from toyon fruit; in the Pritchard collection.

Paratypes: Eight males, eight females, Palo Alto, California, April 7 and May 14, 1951 (L. W. Swan), reared from toyon fruit.



Pritchard, A. Earl. 1952. "A new gall midge pest of toyon berries (Diptera : Itonididae)." *The Pan-Pacific entomologist* 28, 16.

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