

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

SYMPATRIC ASSOCIATIONS OF *SYSTROPUS* SPP.
(DIPTERA: BOMBYLIIDAE) AND *AMMOPHILA* SPP.
(HYMENOPTERA: SPHECIDAE)

The bombyliid genus *Systropus* consists of flies resembling threadwaisted wasps of the family Sphecidae. Bezzi (1924, The Bombyliidae of the Ethiopian region. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist., 390 pp.) considers the group one of the most primitive bombyliid genera. As they are relatively uncommon, few reports on the associations and habits of members of the genus can be found.

Cole and Schlinger (1969, The flies of western North America. Univ. Calif. Press, 693 pp.) reported the sympatric associations of the northern species *Systropus macer* Loew with an eastern species *Systropus angulatus angulatus* Karsch in Texas. Roberts (1928, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., 53: 90-144) proposed the sphecid *Sceliphron laetum* Smith as the model for *Systropus flavoornatus* Roberts.

On 22 August 1977, *S. angulatus ammophiloides* (Townsend) and *Systropus arizonicus* Banks were collected while alighting upon and hovering above the blossoms of *Aloysia wrightii* (Gray) (Verbenaceae) in Florida Cyn., Santa Rita Mts., Pima Co., Arizona. Two *Ammophila* spp. were captured in association with the flies, *Ammophila aberti* Haldeman and *Ammophila breviceps* Smith.

S. a. ammophiloides and *A. breviceps* approximate each other in size and coloration, as do the larger, more colorful *S. arizonicus* and *A. aberti*. In addition, the flies could be distinguished from the sphecids by several behavioral patterns. Both *Systropus* species demonstrated slower, more directed flight, often hovering near the blooms. Further, in flight the abdomens of the bombyliids droop, while the abdomens of the wasps are held aloft and arched.

The sympatric associations of *S. a. ammophiloides* and *A. breviceps*, and *S. arizonicus* and *A. aberti* have not been previously reported. However, the ranges of the species overlap. *S. a. ammophiloides* and *S. arizonicus* have been collected from the sw./U.S. deserts and n. Mexico (pers. obs.; Calif. Acad. Sci., U. C. Davis collections), while Bohart and Menke (1976, Sphecid wasps of the world. Univ. Calif. Press, 695 pp.) reported both *Ammophila* species from the w. U.S. and Mexico. During August, 1976, 1977, and 1978, the authors collected each species separately at various locations in s. Arizona. Of the bombyliids, *S. a. ammophiloides* were more abundant, and were often found on *Baccharis glutinosa* Pers. and various annuals in bloom along water courses.

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assistance. Specimens are deposited at the insect repository, Univ. of Calif., Davis.

F. G. Zalom, R. P. Meyer, and P. H. Mason, *Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of California, Davis 95616.*

NOTICE

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SYSTEMATIC AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY (ICSEB-II)

The Second International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (ICSEB-II) will be held at The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 17–24 July 1980.

The provisional list of symposia topics includes:

1. Arctic Refugia and the evolution of Arctic biota
2. Origins and evolution of the North Pacific marine biota
3. Evolution of reproductive strategies
4. Evolutionary epigenetics
5. Evolution of community structure
6. Green algae and land plant origins
7. Macromolecular mechanisms in evolution
8. Allozymes and evolution
9. Coevolution and foraging strategy
10. Evolution of colonizing species
11. Rare species and the maintenance of gene pools
12. Paleobiology of the Pacific rim

Additional symposia may be included.

Sessions for contributed papers and for papers in specialized fields, taxonomic as well as methodological will also be organized.

Those interested in receiving an information circular in the spring of 1979 should write to the following:

Dr. G. G. E. Scudder
Department of Zoology
The University of British Columbia
2075 Wesbrook Mall
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5
CANADA.



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