

THE MALE OF TASTIOTENIA FESTIVA

(Hymenoptera, Pompilidae)

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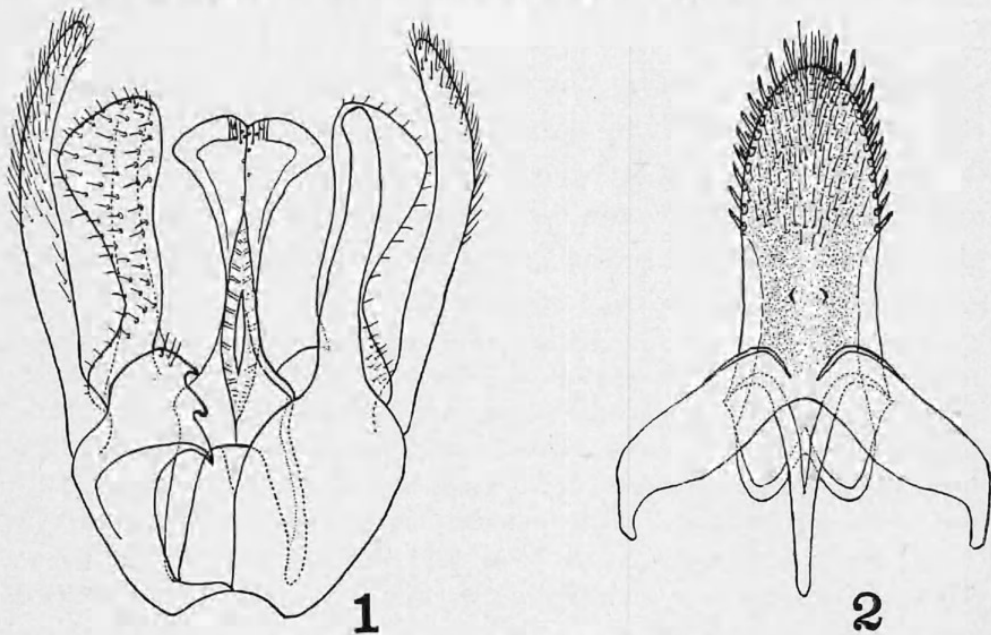
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A few years ago I described an unusual new genus of pompilid wasps, *Tastiotenia*, based on two females, one from Needles, California, and one from Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico (1950, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 75:150). In the description a number of curious morphological features were pointed out, and the unique wing venation was described and figured. It was concluded that the genus apparently belonged to the tribe Pompilini, but that it must represent a relict of a very early type. I have awaited the discovery of the male of this genus with considerable anticipation. Fortunately I have not had to wait long, for an intrepid wasp-hunter, Dr. Paul D. Hurd, Jr., has recently collected a male *Tastiotenia* at Borego, San Diego County, Calif., May 2, 1952. Although differing in color from the female *T. festiva*, the difference is no greater than often occurs between the sexes in Pompilidae, and I feel certain that it represents the male of this species. The male keys readily to *Tastiotenia* in my key to the Nearctic genera of Pompilini, and the wings are virtually identical with those figured.

The male possesses all the unusual features of the female plus a few of its own, notably the flattened and somewhat expanded hind basitarsus and tibial spurs, and the oddly shaped last antennal segment. The terminalia, however, are remarkably conventional, and on the basis of these alone one might easily place *festiva* in the genus *Pompilus*, in fact close to *phoenix*. It is difficult to believe that these resemblances are more than coincidental. However, the placing of *Tastiotenia* in the Pompilini seems thoroughly justified on the basis of the genitalic structures.

Description of male.—Length 4.5 mm.; fore wing 3.8 mm. Posterior margin of pronotum with a prominent ivory-white stripe, including the posterior lobes, and the apical abdominal tergite with a large white spot; posterior femora bright rufo-ferruginous, dusky at base and apex; apical half of mandibles rufous; color otherwise black. Wings hyaline, the apical fourth of the fore wings lightly banded with brownish. Body clothed with a somewhat coarse silvery pubescence, more dense and suberect on the propodeum; pubescence grading into brownish on the extremities of the legs. *Mandibles* with a single strong tooth on the inner margin. Clypeus 3.5 times as broad as high, the apical margin broadly, weakly concave. Malar space extremely short. Front very broad, the middle interocular distance .66 times the transfacial distance; inner orbits approximately parallel, the upper and lower

interocular distances about equal. Ocelli rather widely separated on the broad vertex, forming a right angle in front; postocellar and ocello-ocular distances about equal. Vertex elevated in a low, even arc above the eye-tops. Antennae short; first four segments in a ratio of about 17:9:8:10, the third segment thus actually shorter than the pedicel, and only very slightly longer than thick; outer flagellar segments (7-12) approximately as long as their greatest thickness; apical segment about 1.5 times as long as thick, its apex abruptly, obliquely flattened. *Pronotum* short, its posterior margin feebly angulate. Scutellum very prominent; postnotum approximately as wide as the metanotum, distinctly impressed medially. Propodeum without a well-defined posterior rim. Legs feebly spinose; femora with one or two minute spines near the apex; middle and hind tibiae and tarsi with scattered very small spines. Hind coxae large, about 1.5 times as long as the middle coxae. Hind tarsus compressed, the basal segments somewhat expanded; basitarsus considerably broader than the tibia at its base; longer spur of hind tibia broadened and flattened, narrowly fusiform (shorter spur of hind tibia wanting in this specimen). Tarsal claws feebly dentate. Wings as described and figured for the female in the original description. *Abdomen* short and relatively stout, the dorsum somewhat flattened, the sides rather flat and converging below, the abdomen in cross-section therefore somewhat trigonal. Sixth sternite deeply emarginate apically, without special modifications. Subgenital plate (fig. 2) with the median line roundly elevated, the apex narrowly rounded and the margin beset with stout spines, except the extreme apex with only weak setae. Genitalia (fig. 1) with the parameres very slender, clothed with short setae on the apical two-thirds; volsellae with the digiti broadly expanded apically and clothed with short setae; basal hooklets double; aedoeagus with a broad fan-shaped apical expansion.



EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

Figure 1—Male genitalia of *Tastiotesia festiva* Evans, ventral aspect on left side, dorsal on right. Figure 2—Subgenital plate, ventral aspect.



Evans, Howard E. 1954. "The mile of *Tastiotenia festiva* (Hymenoptera, Pompilidae)." *The Pan-Pacific entomologist* 30, 103-104.

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