

**Notes on the Abstersa-Group of the Genus Tephritis,  
and a Description of a New Species from  
California (Diptera: Trypetidae).**

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In determining some material submitted by Mr. K. L. Wolff of the California Horticultural Commission, collected by him and his associates in their work on the insects of the cocklebur, *Xanthium canadensis*, two interesting species of this genus were encountered. One of these proved to be a species described from California in 1868, but has since been considered a synonym of a well-known eastern species. The other is here described as new.

TEPHRITIS ABSTERSA (Loew)

1862. *Trypeta abstersa* Loew, Berl. Ent. Zeit., vi, p. 221.  
(Cent., II, 77.)

1873. *Trypeta abstersa* Loew, Mon. Dipt. No. Am., iii, p. 322,  
pl. 11, fig. 7. (Urellia.)

This species is typical of a group in the genus *Tephritis*, particularly characteristic in having the radiation of the infuscated area of the wings producing two hyaline costal wedges in the marginal cell, two in the apex of submarginal cell, one in apex of first posterior and three in the second posterior cells; a small drop in the apex of the marginal cell is also characteristic and appears to be constant, as I have no records of its absence. The ray to the almost hyaline stigma is narrow and extends from the anterior crossvein to the tip of the first vein; the inferior basal portion of the wings is more or less distinctly maculated.

This species was originally described from "Amer. boreal.", probably from Eastern United States. It is entirely yellow with some infuscation on the thorax and apical portions of the abdominal segments; the third antennal segment in both sexes is yellow, scarcely longer than broad, rounded apically; the face is scarcely longer than broad, and the mesonotum is scarcely darker than the humeri. The wing is well figured by Loew.

In his redescription of this species in 1873, Loew included



material from Cuba which he supposed to be the same species, but it is probable that this was not the case. He states that "they are somewhat smaller, have a more extended blackish coloring, and the incomplete gray reticulation of the proximal half of the wing is considerably darker towards the posterior margin."

Of this species I have seen material from: Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, August 5, 1906 [1 ♂]; Manahawkin, New Jersey, September 5, [1 ♂]; Riverton, New Jersey, July 18, [1 ♂].

TEPHRITIS ACUTANGULA (Thomson)

1868. *Trypeta acutangula* Thomson, *Eugenies Reise*, Dipt., p. 583.

1890. *Euaesta abstersa* Coquillett, *Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc.*, vii, p. 265 [not Loew].

1907. *Euaesta abstersa* Cresson, *Trans. Am. Ent. Soc.*, xxxiii, p. 106 [not Loew].

Coquillett considered this species synonymous with *abstersa*, with which treatment I do not concur although it is not improbable that it may prove to be a subspecies or a variety. It is a darker species with very little yellow on the body, and may be described as follows:

Black; head except occiput and sometimes third antennal segment, humeri, scutellum apically, halteres, squamae, and legs, yellow. Basal portion of the arista also pale. In the darker forms the bristles of the head (except postorbital cilia), of mesonotum, humeri, notopleura, and scutellum, are black; all pile and other bristles are white, although some flexor bristles of the femora may be dark. Thorax and abdomen densely cinereous, almost obscuring the black ground color. Face generally longer than broad, and third antennal segment somewhat longer than broad, generally with an acute superior apical angle.

This form seems to have quite an extensive range west of the Mississippi River, from Dakota to Southern California. It is noticed that the California specimens have the third antennal segment generally dark, which is not the case with those from other localities I mention. Of this species I have seen material from:

Dakota: no data, [1 ♀].

Minnesota: no data, [1 ♂, 1 ♀].



Texas: El Paso, April 4-5, (Viereck & Rehn), [1 ♂, 2 ♀].  
Ysleta, April 2, (Viereck & Rehn), [1 ♂, 1 ♀].

New Mexico: Alamogordo, April 22 to June, (Viereck & Rehn), [3 ♂, 2 ♀]. Beulah, August 17, (Skinner), [1 ♂, 2 ♀].  
Cloudcroft, May 24, (Viereck & Rehn), [1 ♂].

California: Beverly Hills, September 13, (J. C. Menzies), [Cal. Hort. Comm., 1 ♀]. Claremont, (Baker), [1 ♀]. Pasadena, April 6-11, (K. L. Wolff), [Cal. Hort. Comm.; 2 ♂, 2 ♀].

### ***Tephritis wolffi* new species.**

Identical with *Trypeta tenera* Loew of Europe in wing pattern, but differing mostly in having the third antennal segment of the male black.

♂. Head quadrate in profile, with eyes slightly vertical. Cheeks narrow, scarcely as broad as third antennal segment. Frons slightly turgid, prominent at antennae; parafrons broad with two frontorbital bristles. Face falling vertically, with epistoma not prominent. Mesofrons yellow to orange; orbits, face, cheeks and occiput much paler, whitish. Second antennal segment brown; third black, elongate, tapering apically; arista with basal third white and yellow. Thorax black, densely cinereous, with pale pubescence and hairs. Scutellum pale apically, with four bristles; apical pair short. Abdomen rather cylindrical, with pale hairs and pubescence; bases of the elongate sixth segment and lateral basal angles of the others, dark. Legs pale; fore femora noticeably thickened. Length, 3 mm.

♀. Similar, with third antennal segment tawny; bases of fourth to sixth abdominal segments black; ovipositor segment conical, turgid and polished black.

*Type*.—Male: Pomona, California, (K. L. Wolff; September 12, 1930), [A.N.S.P., no. 6390]. *Paratypes*.—3 ♂, 4 ♀: topotypical. 1 ♂, Visalia, California, (Culbertson); [A. N. S. P.]

Two males in poor condition from Lemon Cone, Tulare County, California, 500 ft. alt., (J. C. Bradley; July 9-11, 1907), [Cornell], are apparently conspecific with the above type series.

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Cresson, E. T. and Melo-Costa, Wanessa de. 1931. "Notes on the abstersa-group of the genus *Tephritis*, and a description of a new species from California (Diptera: Trypetidae)." *Entomological news* 42, 3–5.

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