

## A NEW SPECIES OF SYNTOMASPIIS.

By A. B. GAHAN, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology.

A large series of what appears to be a new species of *Syntomaspis* was recently sent to the writer by R. H. Beamer of the University of Kansas. Attention is called to the unusual habit of the species of feeding as a larva on the eggs of *Melampsalta calliope* (Walker).

***Syntomaspis oviperditor*, new species.**

Similar in many respects to *S. tubicola* Osten Sacken, but differs by having a somewhat longer ovipositor, more strongly metallic tibiae, the mesoscutum and scutellum less strongly sculptured, the apical one-third of scutellum more weakly sculptured than basal two-thirds, the head less strongly transverse, and the hind coxae not quite so strongly punctate on its outer face.

*Female*.—Length 2.8 mm.; ovipositor 4 to 4.50 mm. Head as broad as thorax at tegulae, finely closely shagreened; lateral ocelli very slightly more than their own diameter from the eye margins; antennae with the first funicle joint slightly longer than the pedicel and about one-third longer than broad, last funicle joint subquadrate; club ovate a little thicker than last funicle joint and about equal in length to the two joints which precede it; prothorax and mesoscutum finely reticulate, the reticulations transversely elongated and giving an appearance of very fine, rather indefinite and irregular transverse lineolation or rugulosity; axillae and basal two-thirds of scutellum sculptured like mesoscutum, the apical one-third of scutellum set off by a distinct cross furrow and much more weakly reticulated than the basal portion, often nearly smooth; propodeum shining, nearly polished, but with some very faint reticulations, without any indications of carinae or folds, the spiracles elliptical; mesepimera and metapleura polished, rest of pleura reticulated; stigmal vein sessile; postmarginal two or three times as long as stigmal; hind coxae outwardly rather strongly reticulated, without a distinct carinate line along the dorsal margin; hind tibial spurs unequal, the inner spur the longest and less than half the length of basitarsus, abdomen about as long as head and thorax, compressed from the sides, the first tergite smooth and comprising approximately one-third of the dorsal length of abdomen, segments beyond the first subequal in dorsal length and uniformly weakly reticulated; ovipositor one and two-thirds times the length of body. Head, thorax and abdomen bright green, more or less tinged with brassy, the scutellum strongly so; scape metallic with a yellowish spot at base; flagellum black; fore and middle coxae, femora and tibiae aeneous, their knees, apices of tibiae and tarsi pale yellowish; hind coxae and femora bluish, their tibiae blackish with an aeneous tinge, their knees very slightly, apices of tibiae very narrowly, and tarsi entirely pale yellowish; ovipositor sheaths black; wings hyaline, venation pale yellow.

*Male*.—Length 2.0 mm. Abdomen not more than two-thirds as long as the thorax, not strongly compressed; first tergite comprising a little more than one-third its dorsal length; scutellum not strongly tinged with brassy, and with



its apical one-third rather distinctly reticulated but still not as strongly so as the rest of scutellum. Otherwise agrees with the description of the female.

Both sexes show considerable variation in size. Females range from 2 mm. in length to slightly more than 3 mm. and the exerted portion of the ovipositor is correspondingly variable ranging from 3.3 mm. to 4.6 mm. Males vary from 1.6 mm. to 2.15 in length.

*Type locality*.—Douglas County, Kansas.

*Type*.—Cat. No. 40465, U. S. N. M.

Twenty-three females and twenty-six males reared by R. H. Beamer of the University of Kansas from egg clusters of *Tibicen aurifera* Say in May, 1924, and September, 1925; also five females and two males reared July 8, 1925, by the same collector from stems of sweet clover containing egg-clusters of *Melampusalta calliope* (Walker). Type, allotype and forty-four paratypes in the U. S. National Museum; ten paratypes in the collection of Kansas University.

The parasitism of this species upon the eggs of its host is an altogether anomalous habit for species of *Syntomaspis* and even for the family Callimomidae, so far as known to the writer. Mr. Beamer assures me, however, that he has observed the parasite larva feeding upon the eggs of the cicadas and has reared them through to maturity, so there can be no doubt of the correctness of the record.

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