

NEW UNITED STATES RECORDS FOR TWO HETEROPTERA:
PELLAEA STICTICA (PENTATOMIDAE) AND
RHINACLOA PALLIDIPES (MIRIDAE)

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Abstract.—*Pellaea stictica* (Dallas), a widespread Neotropical pentatomid, is reported for the first time from Texas, and *Rhinacloa pallidipes* Maldonado, a mirid known formerly only from Puerto Rico, is reported from Florida. A brief taxonomic review and diagnostic characters are given to help distinguish these species from the related U.S. fauna.

This paper is provided to make available the records of two Heteroptera previously not known to occur in the United States. Reported are the pentatomid *Pellaea stictica* from Texas and the mirid *Rhinacloa pallidipes* from Florida. Pertinent literature and diagnostic information are provided.

***Pellaea stictica* (Dallas)**

Pellaea stictica, originally described in the genus *Rhaphigaster* (Dallas, 1851), is a Neotropical stinkbug known from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico (Oaxaca and Yucatan) and Panama (Kirkaldy, 1909). Rolston (1976) confirmed that *Pellaea* was the correct generic placement for the species, and Rolston and McDonald (1981) later included *Pellaea* in section 2 of a 3 part key to the Pentatomini of the Western Hemisphere. Distant (1891) provided a color figure of the adult. The host of this species is unknown.

This new U.S. record is based on a male and female (U.S. National Museum of Natural History [USNM]) taken alive on citrus at Weslaco, Hidalgo Co., Texas, 14 Oct. 1983, on the grounds of the Texas A. & I. Citrus Center, by J. V. French. In addition to the above records, there are specimens in the USNM collection from Costa Rica, Mexico (Jalisco), Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

Pellaea stictica is easily distinguished from all other pentatomids in the U.S. by the dark reddish-brown dorsum spotted and marbled with yellowish orange, the pale undersurface of the body with blue-black to black spots (including spiracular openings), and pale legs with 2 blackish stripes on each tibia and femur.

***Rhinacloa pallidipes* Maldonado**

Recently, F. W. Mead (Fla. Dept. Agric., Gainesville) sent to me an adult female plant bug (USNM) collected alive on Brazilian pepper, *Schinus terebinthifolius* Raddi, at Hollywood, Broward Co., Florida, 27 Oct. 1983, by L. J. Daigle. I identified the specimen as *Rhinacloa pallidipes* by using Maldonado's (1969) key

to the Puerto Rican species of *Rhinacloa* and comparing it to types housed in the USNM. This is the first report of the species in the United States and the only record since its original description from Puerto Rico (Maldonado, 1969).

Rhinacloa pallidipes is very close to *R. punctipes* Maldonado, also previously known only from Puerto Rico. The two species can be distinguished only by a slight variation in the degree of darkness of the spots on the pale hindfemora. It is my opinion that this small difference is only infraspecific variation and that upon study of additional material the species will prove to be conspecific. In the U.S. fauna, *Rhinacloa pallidipes* is most similar to *R. forticornis* (Reuter) in the general dark coloration of the dorsum and antennae, but it can be separated from *forticornis* by the yellowish-brown, dark-spotted femora and the dark, satinlike patch on the anterior part of the propleura immediately behind the eyes.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

R. C. Froeschner (USNM) and A. G. Wheeler, Jr. (Bureau of Plant Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg) kindly reviewed the manuscript.

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Henry, Thomas J. 1984. "New United States records for two Heteroptera: *Pellaea stictica* (Pentatomidae) and *Rhinacloa pallipides* (Miridae)." *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 86, 519–520.

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