

Aplonyx Sarcobati N. Sp.

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The small midges described below were reared in numbers December 23, 1913, from oval swellings on the leaves of grease wood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) collected at Canyon City, Colorado, November 23, 1913, by Prof. Ellsworth Bethel. The galls were apparently abundant and contained orange yellow larvæ. Recently emerged females have the abdomen filled with some fifty or more narrowly oval eggs. It is remarkable that this peculiar type, first discovered in the Mediterranean region, should be represented by a close ally on the plains of Colorado.

Male—Length 1.3 mm. Antennæ extending to the third abdominal segment, sparsely haired, dark brown; twelve sessile cylindric segments, the third and fourth rather narrowly fused, the fifth with a length three-fourths its diameter, the terminal segment with a length over three times its diameter, broadly rounded apically and composed of three closely fused segments. Palpi—The first segment short, irregular, the second broadly oval, both sparsely setose. Mesonotum dark brown. Scutellum and postscutellum fuscous yellowish. Abdomen dark brown, the basal and terminal segments yellowish orange, the genitalia fuscous yellowish. Wings hyaline, costa yellowish brown, thickly scaled, subcosta uniting therewith near the basal half; the fifth vein simple, uniting with the posterior margin at the distal third, the sixth at the basal third. Halteres, coxæ, femora and tibiæ fuscous yellowish, the tarsi dark brown. Claws moderately stout, strongly curved, simple, or at most, very minutely toothed, the pulvelli as long as the claws. Genitalia—Basal clasp segment long, moderately stout; terminal clasp segment swollen basally, with a length about half that of the basal clasp segment and with a distinct apical tooth; dorsal plate rather long, broad, broadly and roundly emarginate, the lobes somewhat divergent and narrowly rounded; ventral plate long, moderately broad and broadly rounded. Harpes long,

slender, slightly curved and tapering to a subtruncate, spinose apex; style moderately long, slender, tapering, narrowly rounded apically.

Female—Length 1.5 mm. Antennæ hardly extending to the base of the abdomen, sparsely haired, dark brown; fourteen sessile segments, the fifth with a length one-fourth greater than its diameter, the terminal segment with a length more than thrice its diameter and composed of three closely fused segments. Palpi—First segment broadly ovate, the second slender, with a length about thrice its diameter. Mesonotum shining dark brown, the submedian lines thickly white-haired. Scutellum and postscutellum fuscous yellowish. Abdomen dark brown, the segments narrowly margined posteriorly with silvery white, the markings on the first two rudimentary, those on the third, fourth, fifth and sixth almost forming submedian spots, those on the seventh diffuse; venter with the small sclerites dark brown, the incisures and pleuræ fuscous yellowish. Ovipositor yellowish, nearly as long as the abdomen when extended, the basal portion fleshy, the distal third chitinized, cultrate and with a distinct expansion near the middle. The claws in this sex are distinctly heavier than in the male and about as long as the pulvilli.

Type—C. a2477.

This unique type is most interesting because of certain synthetic combinations, namely, the Lasioptera type of wing and antenna with the simple claws and the bladelike ovipositor, the two latter suggesting very strongly an affinity with Asphondylia. In the case of the ovipositor we believe this modification to be one of minor significance and evidently an adaptation enabling the female to deposit her eggs within the tissues of the host plant. The absence or almost total absence of teeth on the claws is simply one remove further from what we find in Baldratia with claws either simple or toothed. The combination of characters is significant and yet the obvious dominance of the Lasioptera structures leads us to class this genus with the Lasiopterariæ rather than to place it in a separate tribe, Aplonyxini, as proposed by Dr. Perez, the discoverer of Aplonyx.



1914. "Aplonyx sarcobati n. sp." *Journal of entomology and zoology* 6, 93–94.

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