

Eucestia fuscata, new species.—♂. Expanse, 24.5 mm. Front, antennæ and thorax fuscous, with a sprinkling of white scales; palpi white at basal and fuscous at apical half; vertex wholly brown. Ground colour of primaries whitish-cinereous, thickly overlaid with fuscous scales. Three parallel whitish lines, the inner beginning one-fourth from the apex on the costa, and terminating one-third from the inner angle on the inner margin, extend obliquely across the wing, curving outward at radius 5, and inward at cubitus 2. These lines are almost obsolete a little below radius 5 to media 2, the innermost showing most plainly. The outer line in the apical portion of the wing deeply scalloped. The terminal line deep fuscous, preceded and narrowly broken by whitish scales. The basal line is represented by an oblique, rather broad mark, in the centre of the wing, slightly nearer the inner margin. The discal spot is deep fuscous, linear. Veins, media 1, media 3 and cubitus 1 are darkened by fuscous scales from the centre of the wing to the inner transverse line. Fringe checkered white and pale fuscous. Secondaries smoky brown, slightly darker at the apex, and with darker squares in the fringe. Beneath it is pale smoky brown, peppered with white scales along the costa and outer margin; the fringe checkered as above.

Described from one male received from Dr. J. B. Smith, taken at Colton, Cal., Feb. 26.

Type in Rutgers College, from coll. Dr. J. B. Smith.

In spite of the close similarity of the markings to *Eucestia rotundata*, I am positive that this will remain a good species. The outward curvature of the transverse white lines and the suffusion of fuscous scales, combine to make the species distinct.

THE SNOW FLY, *CHIONEAL VALGA*.

BY C. N. AINSLIE, ROCHESTER, MINN.

From allusions that are met with in papers and letters, the Snow Fly seems to be to most collectors a mythical insect, seldom described and more infrequently found. The late Dr. Lugger claimed to have taken it in Minnesota, but, a short time before his death, when he undertook to show me an example of the insect, it could not be found either in his own or the State collection. It is true he figured it in his Second Annual Report, issued in 1896, but that and the figure in the last State report, 1905, are

somewhat misleading, and fall short of an adequate representation. Indeed, it is next to impossible to represent the fly as it appears in actual life, "ambling" across the landscape, for to my mind it resembles a clumsy little black spider more than anything else.

A neighbour of my boyhood days used to tell me of a fly that he had found at times in the snow, although I believe he called it a "snow flea," but his ideas on other subjects were peculiar, and I gave scant credence to his fly stories. Professor Lugger and I have several times waded patiently through snow, looking carefully for this insect, but never until last Christmas did I ever see one. My son and myself were walking along a little-used road on top of a bluff at the edge of this city late in December last, when we were met by one of these strange fellows, staggering actively along the sleigh track toward us. It was a winter afternoon, the sun almost setting, the snow a foot deep, or more, the surface snow at least ten days old, a cool breeze blowing, and the mercury 15 degrees above zero, Fahr. I recognized him at a glance as I would an old friend, and, gathered him in. It was a male, and when touched feigned death, but in a few seconds started on again. In a vial in the warmth of my pocket it died within a few minutes.

Two days later my son searched the same vicinity carefully during the forenoon and took two more, a male and female, which mated instantly when bottled together. This pair was kept out of doors that night under an inverted glass on snow, but the next morning were both dead, or nearly so. The snow below the glass was carefully melted, but no trace of eggs was found.

The fly appears black when seen against snow, but is really a blackish-gray, the body velvety and soft. The halteres are prominent. The legs are the most striking feature in the make-up of the creature, and are three or four times as long as the body, loosely attached as in the Tipulidæ. The body is about three millimetres in length, besides the antennæ, which are peculiar in shape and are inadequately represented in the delineations referred to above.

The life-history of the Snow Fly has been partially worked out in Europe, but under the conditions of life in which it exists in this vicinity it would certainly be exceedingly difficult to follow successfully, except in rare cases.



Ainslie, C. N. 1906. "The snow fly, *Chionea valga*." *The Canadian entomologist* 38, 275–276. <https://doi.org/10.4039/Ent38275-8>.

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