

The First Record of the Delphacid *Liburniella ornata* in California (Homoptera: Fulgoroidea)

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Liburniella ornata (Stål) has been reported from Maine south to Florida and west to Texas, Nebraska, and Minnesota (Metcalf, 1943) as well as Bermuda (Van Duzee, 1909) and possibly Ecuador (see Muir, 1926). The only record of its occurrence west of the Rocky Mountains is that of Downes (1927) for British Columbia.

L. ornata is common and widely distributed in the eastern United States (Osborn, 1938) and is often collected in grassy meadows (Wilson, pers. obs.). It has been recorded feeding on black walnut (*Juglans nigra* L.) (Nixon and McPherson, 1977), and has been collected in June and from September to mid-October in Illinois (Weber and Wilson, 1981). Otherwise, no information is available on its biology. An adult was illustrated by Metcalf (1923) and the male genitalia were figured by Muir (1926).

We recently found three specimens of *L. ornata* from California among unidentified delphacids in the B. P. Bliven collection which has been acquired by the California Academy of Sciences and the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

The label information for the specimens is as follows:

CALIFORNIA: Humboldt Co., Fieldbrook, 23 July 1939, coll. B. P. Bliven, 1 male, 1 female; Pepperwood, Greenlaw Creek, 9 September 1973, coll. B. P. Bliven, 1 female [brachypter].

Although *L. ornata* is of widespread occurrence in the eastern U.S., it has only been collected in two localities in northern California. These limited collection records and the substantial geographic and ecological barriers suggest that this delphacid is an introduced species. Since females have a saw-like ovipositor and probably insert their eggs in plant tissues as do other delphacids, imported plant materials containing eggs, such as nursery or house plants or packing straw, may be a source of introduction. Its spread may be limited by the distribution of particular introduced plants or by a restricted set of ecological conditions present in the area where the specimens were collected.

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