

The Genus *Psilocurus* Loew

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This small and interesting genus is predominantly Nearctic. Recently a species has been described by Oldroyd from the near East, making a total of seven known species, one of them Mexican. The author has collected six species in recent years, two of which are new and here described.

Psilocurus pygmaeus, new species

This species differs from *Psilocurus puellus* Bromley in that the under surface of the femora are black, except quite near the apex where they are a little reddish. Also the last 3 or 4 segments of the abdomen are light red in color. Length 7-8 mm.

Male. *Head*: The head is black, everywhere dusted with dense, greyish white pollen or fine micropubescence. Pile of the lower occiput white. Weak bristles start on the occiput below the middle of the head and are yellowish white in color, and become a little longer or more stout behind the vertex. Ocellarium with 1 or 2 minute hairs and wholly pollinose. Face with a few fine, short, yellowish white hairs distributed over the middle, each of them curled downward. Lower margin of the face with about 5 pairs of slender, rather tectiformed, pale yellow bristles. Palpus and proboscis shining black. Antenna black, first segment with a rather long, slender, white, bristly hair below, the second segment with comparatively long, black setae at the apex above and below. Third segment rather short oval, but pointed at the apex, widest across the middle, relatively broad and equally tapered from the middle in each direction.

Thorax: The thorax is shining black but rather obscured by completely appressed, short, coarse, brassy yellow pile. In addition the humerus and lateral margin of the postalar callosity are greyish to silvery white pollinose. The whole of the metanotum and all of the pleuron, except 2 abbreviated, vertical bare stripes, are densely silvery white pollinose. Scutellum black

with the same appressed yellowish pile as the mesonotum. Halteres pale yellow. Scutellum with 1 pair of black bristles, postalar callosity, supraalar region and notopleuron each with a black bristle.

Legs: The legs are black. The extreme apex of the front and middle femora dorsally, the ventral surface on the apical half only of these femora, the extreme base of the hind femur and the apical fifth of the hind femur ventrally reddish in color; also the extreme apex only of all the tibiae brownish yellow or orange. Legs covered with completely appressed, fine, pale yellow pile and with a few short, pale yellow bristles, which are comparatively long on the first 3 tarsal segments.

Wings: The wings are hyaline, except for very fine, brown villi. Venation typical.

Abdomen: The abdomen is slender, black on one to three basal segments, becoming reddish on the remainder of the abdomen and light orange brown on at least the last tergite and terminalia. Apex of prongs of surstylus black. Terminalia inverted. Sides of the tergites with 2 weak yellow bristles on each of the first three, 1 or 2 on the remaining tergites. Posterior triangles along the lateral margin of the tergites with thin, silvery white pollen which is easily obscured in individuals with bad preservation.

Holotype: Male, 20 miles west of Toyah, TEXAS, August 4, 1954, collected by F. M. Hull. Two *paratype* males with the same data.

***Psilocurus tibialis*, new species**

A large black species. Femora of the male black, of the female light red. Tibiae black in both sexes. Length 10 mm.

Male. *Head:* The head is black, densely greyish white pollinose except on the upper occiput and posterior part of vertex where the pollen is brownish yellow, and on the face where the pollen and micropubescence is silvery. Middle of face with a few short, silvery hairs. Bristles of occiput, face and middle bristle from the middle of ventral surface of first antennal segment light yellow. Lower face quite rounded, the whole lower

third or more with moderately long, slender, yellowish bristles. Proboscis and antenna black.

Thorax: The thorax is dull black with flat appressed, brassy pile laterally. The middle of the mesonotum with much shorter appressed black hairs and a few brassy hairs intermixed. Pleuron yellowish to whitish pollinose, except for a bare, black stripe above the middle coxa and a similar spot above the hind coxa. Halteres yellowish, scutellum with yellowish pile, in both sexes with 1 pair of long, stout, black bristles. Mesonotal bristles black.

Legs: The femora are quite stout, in the male the legs are entirely black except for the extreme apex of all the femora and the extreme base of their tibia, which are yellowish to brownish. Pile appressed, brownish to yellowish white on the femora, rather silvery on the front and middle tibia and tarsi, black on the hind tibia and tarsi. Femora in the female entirely light red, their tibia are black except narrowly at the base which is yellowish. Pile as in the male, except that on hind tibia and tarsus the pile is light brassy to brownish yellow.

Wings: The wings are very pale brown, much of the color due to villi.

Abdomen: The abdomen is robust, quite black with a slight opalescent blue color but without any metallic or steel blue reflections. First 3 tergites laterally with large, greyish white, pollinose triangles. Fourth and fifth tergites with shorter triangles, which, however, are extended much farther inward along the posterior margin. Pile of the abdomen appressed and black in the middle of the tergites, becoming brassy laterally in the female and on the whole of the last tergite. Lateral bristles all pale yellow.

Holotype: Male, Uvalde, TEXAS, August 15, 1959. *Allotype* female with the same data, collected in the same field with *Psilocurus reinhardi*, by F. M. Hull.

***Psilocurus birdi* Curran**

Five females, Oxford, Mississippi, July 5-14, 1934; 1 female, July 23, 1949.

***Psilocurus birdi* Curran, subspecies *pallustris*, new subspecies**

Female. A large, robust species from 10 to 11 mm. in length. It differs from *Psilocurus birdi* Curran in the female by the abdominal color being quite black with whitish pollinose, lateral triangles. Bristles of the first tergite are black and the hind femur widely encircled by black ventrally leaving only base and apex yellowish.

Holotype: Female, Tobitubbe Flood Plain, Lafayette County, MISSISSIPPI, August 6, 1960; 10 *paratype* females, August 6-12, 1960; all collected on leaves of low growing plants; 1 *paratype* female on window of Post Office, University, Mississippi, July 6, 1959.

***Psilocurus nudiusculus* Loew**

One female, July 13, 1956, on gravel on back driveway my home, University, Mississippi.

***Psilocurus reinhardi* Bromley**

Two males and a female collected in a weedy meadow in the city limits of Uvalde, Texas, in deep shade, August 15, 1959. The metallic bluish or purplish color of abdomen of this species is characteristic. Legs of sexes alike or nearly so.

***Psilocurus modestus* Williston**

One male, highway 18, near Damar, Kansas, July 18, 1959.



Hull, Frank M. 1961. "The genus *Psilocurus* Loew." *Entomological news* 72, 101–104.

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