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SOME TINGITIDÆ (HETEROPTERA) FROM  
HONDURAS<sup>1</sup>

BY CARL J. DRAKE

A small collection of lace bugs, taken by Theodore H. Hubbell in the coastal region of Honduras, Central America, 1923, has recently been received by the writer for study. This collection includes one species and one variety as yet undescribed, which are characterized herein. The collection, including the types, is deposited in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

*Monanthia monotropidia* Stål

Four specimens, taken March 22 between Progreso and Negrito, at an elevation of about 1,500 feet on the humid north slopes of the Cordillera de Mico Quemado; sweeping bushes and tall herbaceous vegetation along the broad sunny trail winding up through the dense tropical forest which clothes this face of the range. One example, Tela, on shrub in citrus grove.

<sup>1</sup> The collection was made by T. H. Hubbell in cooperation with the United Fruit Company, and this paper is published with their approval.

*Teleonemia rugosa* Champion

Female, Tela Division, Guaimmas district, May 10, on foliage and branches of tangled mass of recently felled forest trees. It agrees with other specimens at hand from Central America.

*Dichocysta pictipes* Champion, var.

Tela Division, Dakota farm, Lean River Valley, May 24 (experimental cacao plantation). This insect feeds on the developing fruit of cacao, the fruit being infested from the time it is half-grown until nearly mature. Specimens were always found where two fruits came in contact with each other, or where the fruit touched a stem or twig. When very abundant the entire fruit was sometimes covered with nymphs and adults. The feeding punctures in the skin of the fruit cause discoloration and give the fruit a speckled and brownish appearance. No dwarfed or deformed fruit was noted as a result of the feeding activities of the insect. This is the first food plant record for this tingitid and, according to Mr. Hubbell, the insect may prove of considerable economic importance to the cacao or chocolate industry in Honduras.

*Acysta hubbelli*, n. sp.

Moderately elongate, broad. Head short, black, the spines moderately long and yellowish; posterior spines directed forward, contiguous with the surface of the head, reaching a little beyond the middle of the eyes; median spines moderately long, directed downward and touching the median surface of the head; antero-lateral spines somewhat decumbent, the tips touching. Rostrum moderately long, yellowish brown, reaching a little beyond the middle of the mesosternum. Bucculae closed in front. Rostral laminae moderately raised, more widely separated on the metasternum, closed behind. Antennae moderately long; first segment a little thicker and slightly more than two and a half times as long as the second; third segment very long, a little more than two and a half times as long as the fourth. Legs and antennae brownish, the tarsi darker; coxae reddish brown.

Pronotum black, rugose, strongly constricted in front, moderately and transversely swollen through the disc, coarsely pitted, tricarinate, the lateral carinae becoming indistinct in front. Paranota interrupted in front of humeri, brownish; narrow portion on each side of collum composed of a single row of small cells (usually three); the portion on each side of humeri broader, biseriata, the marginal row of cells lighter in

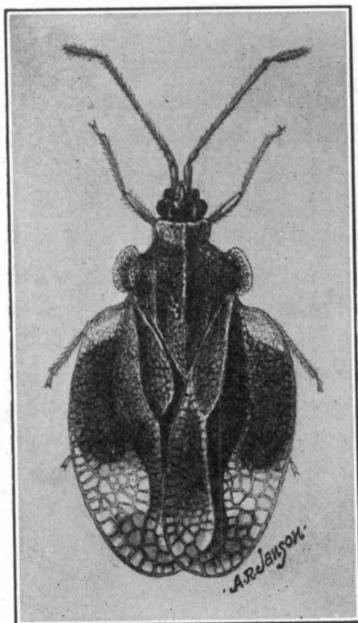


FIG. 1. *Acysta hubbelli*, n. sp.

color. Elytra broad, oval, mostly black or brownish black, the basal portion of costal area and a large transverse area beyond the middle yellowish brown; costal area broad, somewhat irregularly areolate, composed of five or six rows of areolae; subcostal area rather broad, with five rows of cells at its widest part; discoidal area not quite reaching the middle of the elytra, moderately impressed, with four rows of areolae at its widest part. The areolae of subcostal and sutural area equal

in size but considerably smaller than those of costal area. Length, 3.2 mm.; width, 1.8 mm.

Described and figured from a male specimen (holotype), Rio Sangrelaya, a few miles southeast of Iriona, elevation approximately ten feet, April 19, collected in pile of banana bits in heavy lowland tropical forest recently underbrushed and about to be planted. *A. hubbelli* is very distinct and not easily confused with other species in the genus.

#### *Macrotingis biseriata* Champion

One example, female, Progreso, March 21, 1923, taken by T. H. Hubbell. This specimen connects the typical form with the new variety described below. It differs slightly from one of Champion's cotypes before me in having two cells (single row) on the right and four on the left side at the base of the costal area of the elytra. It is also slightly smaller and a little shorter than the cotype.

#### *Macrotingis biseriata novicis*, n. var.

Color markings same as on typical form. Size slightly variable. Costal area with one complete and a partial second series of areolae. The biseriata portion of the costal area varies considerably in length in different specimens, also in the right and left side of the same specimen. The basal and apical portions on each side of the costal area is composed of a single row of large wide cells. The number of large cells (single row) at the base vary greatly in different specimens. The hood and paranota are practically identical with a cotype of *biseriata* Champion.

Length, 4.65-4.9 mm.; width, about 1.45 mm.

Holotype, male, and allotype, female, Progreso, taken "at light" of window, March 23. Paratypes collected with types. Progreso is about eighty-eight kilometers up the Uluá Valley from Tela. The town is surrounded by pastures, cultivated fields, and banana farms, with patches of forest here and there dotting the terrene along the streams. Although the costal

area form differs somewhat from *biseriata* Champion, there seem to be no characters that warrant specific difference.

*Acanthocheila armigera* Stål

Rio Claura, a few miles east of Irióna, April 12, elevation ten or twelve feet, sweeping low herbage in moist depression in a tropical lowland forest. *A. armigera* is a very variable and common neotropical tingitid.

*Corythucha gossypii* (Fabr.)

Many specimens, Puerto Arturo farm, March 13, five kilometers inland from Tela, on young sour sop tree in experimental grove. The species is extremely abundant, and apparently causes considerable injury to the foliage of the sour sop tree. The upper surface of infested leaves becomes mottled with light-colored blotches, especially along the mid-rib; no curling of the leaves was observed. As an enemy of the sour sop this tingitid is probably only second in importance in this region to a lepidopterous insect, the larva of which burrows in the fruit. *C. gossypii* is a very common insect in the southern United States, Mexico, Central America and the West Indies. It also feeds on cotton and a number of other plants.





