
A PRINCIPLE TO OBSERVE IN NAMING GALLS: TWO
NEW GALL-MAKING DIPTERA.

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CEDASPIS-SOLIDAGO ATRA.

Galls do not differ from those of *Cæ. polita*, as described by Osten Sacken (Tr. A. E. Soc. ii., 301; 1869).

This is an addition to the list of gall-making Trypetas given by Osten Sacken in *Psyche* for April, 1880. I bred both sexes from Solidago galls, Sept. 8, 1875, in Connecticut.

Flies.—Female agrees perfectly with Loew's description of a specimen from New York. The eyes in the living flies are green, with two longitudinal purple stripes. The shed puparia are left in the galls, and are of a delicate texture and milk-white colour. The New York specimens from which *atra* was described approach *polita* in all their points of difference from the Mexican specimens. Whether the Mexican specimens belong to the same species is a question which does not concern us in determining the synonymy of *atra*. If the pale gray border of the wing cross-bands was darkened and one of the bristles on the lateral border of the front was lost (differences which might well arise with increased maturity of the specimens) we should have nothing to separate the species excepting the slightly greater divergency of the second and third bands, and it is probable that this greater divergency would disappear with the blackening of the gray borders. *Cæ. atra* is a later name than *Cæ. polita*.

CECIDOMYIA-CELTIS (new genus) DESERTA, new species.

Galls are hollow, elongate swellings of young twigs, from which emerge, about the first of June, single Cecidomyian flies from a perforation near the base. Length of gall one half inch to one inch.

On Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*); Orange, Connecticut.

The name describes the genus.

This gall I name and describe to illustrate a principle which may be useful in naming galls of which the makers are unknown. It does not seem proper to refer such galls to the genus of plants alone, as was done by the older botanists, nor to the genus of insects alone, as is at present the fashion, but to a combination of the two, thus: *Cynips-quercus*, *Cecidomyia-quercus*, *Cecidomyia-salix*, etc. All *Cynips* are, it is true, confined to *Quercus*, but it is the gall and not the insect for which I

propose this nomenclature ; besides, *Quercus* supports other genera of gall-makers. The combined generic name is in the nominative case and will not conflict with the many specific names which have been drawn from the plant and used in the genitive. In many cases the genitive of the plant genus has been used in combination with a specific name not derived from the plant, as *Cynips-quercus-futilis*. The suggestion made by Osten Sacken that in these cases the genitive or its initial (which is often all that is used) should be dropped seems worthy of being carried into effect, as this genitive appears in most cases to have been inserted by accident or error.

This nomenclature also has the advantage of not presenting the appearance of describing what is unknown ; it has no binding force of priority over the specific name of the insect when that is discovered. It has, however, a priority in the description of *galls*, and the specific name should be retained as the name of the *gall*, even though the insect should by chance receive a different name or it should prove not to belong to the genus under which the gall is described. It also has the advantages of simplicity and of conformity with medical usage in naming gall diseases of animals.

To exemplify the principle I name the following galls described in the *5th Rept. U. S. Ent. Comm* :

- p. 612, 30, *C.-c. oviformis*.
- p. 613, 31, *C.-c. semenrumicis*.
- p. 613, 32, *C.-c. pubescens*.
- p. 613, 33, *C.-c. capsularis*.
- p. 614, 34, *C.-c. spiniformis*.

THYREOPUS ADVENUS (Sm.), PACK., A PROTECTOR OF THE ARMY WORM.—This species is an exception among burrowing wasps in being injurious to vegetation, as I have found it killing and carrying to its nest *Sarcophaga*, *Musca domestica*, and that enemy of the Army worm, *Belvosia unifasciata*. The wasp forms its small hillocks under the shelter of shade trees late in August, in Connecticut. In rainy summers its numbers are much reduced. *Miltogramma* pursues the wasp with felonious intent. The wasp may be destroyed by pouring strong alkaline washes into the burrows.

The *B. unifasciata* varies in having a red tail, contrary to the name *flavicauda* by which it was formerly known. W. H. PATTON.

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