A NEW SPECIES AND VARIETY OF PLESIOTHRIPS
(Thripidae—THYSANOPTERA)¹

By J. G. Watts

Plesiothrips andropogoni n. sp. (Plate II, figs. 1-3)

Female (macropterous).—Average length .935 mm. (.812 to 1.160 mm.). Color yellow; head straw yellow; thorax naples yellow, with margins and sutures tinted with deep chrome; basal abdominal segments much paler straw yellow, shading to naples yellow towards the posterior; trace of deep chrome on side margins of 9th and 10th abdominal segments; all legs only very slightly paler than head. Segments 1 and 2 of antennae concolorous with legs; 3 raw umber brown; 4 broccoli brown, basal sixth paler; 5, 6, and 7 sepia brown. (Nomenclature of Colors by Robert Ridgeway, Copyright 1885, Little, Brown & Co., Boston).

Head but little smaller than prothorax; slightly wider than long; cheeks weakly arched, almost parallel; a weak but noticeable constriction behind eyes. Posterior third of occiput weakly transversely striate. Five postocular bristles on each side, the total of ten bristles crudely semi-circularly arranged across the head with the free ends of the crescent pointing in a posterior direction. Middle pair largest and about equal in length to the first antennal segment. Eyes blackish, slightly protruding, together occupying about .6 the width of the head, margins fused with yellow; ocelli widely separated and placed well forward, the posterior pair opposite the anterior third of the eyes, bright chrome yellow with the inner crescents burnt sienna; ocellar bristles conspicuous, about equal in length to the 2nd antennal segment. A pair of rather small inconspicuous postantennal bristles anterior to the ocellar bristles. Maxillary palpi 3-segmented, segments rather weakly defined. Antennae twice as long as head. Relative lengths and widths of segments:

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<th>1</th>
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<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
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¹ Technical Contribution No. 35 from the South Carolina Experiment Station, Clemson College, S. C.
Prothorax about .6 longer than head, a little longer than wide, sides parallel, roughly forming a rectangle; beset with several irregularly arranged inconspicuous pale yellow bristles; posterior angles each with two strong bristles. Mesothorax 1.4 times wider than prothorax, sides evenly arched. Length of fore wings 17 times their width at middle, reaching the 8th or 9th abdominal segment. Costa with 18 to 21 long spines in addition to the fringe hairs which number 12 to 16; fore vein with 13 to 16 and the hind vein with 11 to 14 weaker spines. Metathorax a little narrower than the mesothorax. All legs short and somewhat thickened and beset with numerous spines, those on inner surface of hind tibiae heavier.

Explanation of Plate

Fig. 1—Head, prothorax and fore legs of female of *P. andropogoni*.
Fig. 2—Left antenna.
Fig. 3—End of abdomen of female of *P. andropogoni*. 
Abdomen cylindrical; about 2.8 times as long as wide when segments are not distended; last three segments tapering abruptly into a sharp point. Ovipositor reduced. Tenth segment sulcate above throughout.

Measurements of holotype: Length .959 mm.; head, length .110 mm., width .119 mm.; prothorax, length .148 mm., width .127 mm.; mesothorax, length .112 mm., width .180 mm.; metathorax, length .105 mm., width .147 mm.; abdomen, length .490 mm. (1st segment is partially inserted in the metathorax, therefore, the length of the abdomen was measured from the posterior edge of the metathorax), width .180 mm.

Antennae:

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>36.8</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>22.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Width (Microns):</td>
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<td>22.8</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>17.5</td>
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Described from 21 females collected by the writer from common broom sedge (Andropogon sp.) as follows: Clemson College, Oconee County, S. C., 21 March 1931, one; November 29, 1933, three (elevation 600 to 850 ft.), 17 on top of Sassafrass mountain, Rocky Bottom, Pickens County, S. C., February 6, 1934 (elevation 3548 ft.).

Male unknown.

This is the second North American species and may be distinguished from its relative *P. perplexus* (Beach) by its decided yellow color throughout except antennal segments 5 to 7 which are brown and the wings which are gray-brown, by the close union of the head and prothorax, forming almost a continuous line, and by the small inconspicuous spines on the prothorax in contrast to the heavier and more conspicuous ones in perplexus.

Specimens collected in 75 per cent alcohol, soaked in terpineol for 24 hours, rinsed in 95 per cent alcohol 15 minutes to one hour, mounted in diaphane.

Type and paratypes in author's collection.

**Plesiothrips andropogonis watsoni** n. var.

*Female* (macropterous).—Average length 1.207 mm. (1.096 to 1.344 mm.). Color yellow; head straw yellow; thorax straw yellow with traces of deep chrome by transmitted light. Basal and mid abdominal segments straw yellow shading to naples yellow in distal segments. Legs concolorous with head. Antennal segments 1, 2, and basal half of 3 concolorous with head and legs; distal half of 3 and basal half of 4 slightly darker; distal half of 4 abruptly shading to yellowish brown which
continues into the basal third of 5; distal two-thirds of 5 and segments 6 and 7 sepia brown.

Head large, but little smaller than prothorax; slightly wider than long; a weak constriction behind eyes; cheeks parallel or almost.

Bristles on head and prothorax moderately heavy and conspicuous, more so than in P. andropogoni. All measurements greater and the coloration a little richer, otherwise the variety is the same as andropogoni.

Measurements of holotype: length, 1.096 mm.; head, length .123 mm.; width .135 mm.; prothorax, length .158 mm.; width .145 mm.; mesothorax, width .189 mm.; metathorax, width .166 mm.

Male unknown.

This variety may be distinguished from the species by its larger size, richer color, and the coloration of the antennae.

Upon the acquisition and examination of a larger series of this form, watsoni may be raised to specific rank.

Described from nine females collected by J. R. Watson from Andropogon virginicus at Gainesville, Florida as follows: one on 24 November 1933, two on 24 December 1933, one on 18 January 1934, and five on 20 February 1934.

The author is indebted to Professor J. R. Watson of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, in whose honor this variety is named, for the type material.

Type and two paratype slides in the collection of Professor J. R. Watson. One paratype slide in the writer's collection.

PERSONALS

Among recent visitors at Gainesville were James Zetek of the Canal Zone, Dr. Johannes Wille of Lima, Peru, and a group from Batum, U.S.S.R. interested in the citrus industry.

Dr. T. H. Hubbell is spending the summer in the Museum of the University of Michigan, and Prof. J. T. Creighton in study at Ohio State University.