

FOOD PLANTS AND NEW RECORDS FOR SOME
HEMIPTERA IN FLORIDAROLAND F. HUSSEY
Lakeland, Florida

Theognis gonagra (Fabr.).—This large coreid was plentiful during the winter of 1949-50 on some Brazilian pepper trees (*Schinus terebinthefolia*, fam. *Anacardiaceae*) bordering my yard in Lakeland, where specimens were taken from November until March. Some were seen on the foliage, but most of them were on the bright red berry clusters, with sometimes four or five individuals on a single cluster. In Brazil this species is known as a pest on Cucurbitaceae, and Goncalves (O Campo, 8:52, 1937) has reported it as found on one occasion sucking the juice from oranges, but I did not observe any specimens on the foliage or the fruit of the orange trees standing within a few yards of the *Schinus*. This bug has not reappeared here since the spring of 1950. During that same winter the common *Theognis phyllopus* (Linn.) was also seen occasionally on these trees, but the *Schinus* is not one of its preferred plants.

Chelinidea vittigera aequoris McAtee.—This cactus coreid has not been reported previously from Florida. I have looked for it without success on the prickly pears that grow sparingly in the oak scrub south of Lakeland. I have, however, one specimen of the color form *artuatra* McAtee which I found dead on my driveway on June 17, 1949. There are two specimens in the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan that were collected at Rock Bluff in Liberty County in March, 1929, and one from Alachua County taken in April, 1923.

Oncopeltus fasciatus (Dallas).—The common milkweed bug of the northern states is most often found in Florida on the oleander. It is seldom numerous; most oleander plants are without these bugs, and only rarely are more than two or three adults found on a single bush. I have taken adults and nymphs of all stages on oleander at Lakeland during the early days of May; and the University of Michigan Museum has specimens labelled as taken on the same host plant at Gainesville.

Kleidocerys championi (Distant).—This small lygaeid, described from Guatemala, was first reported from Florida in 1926 by Blatchley, who found it abundantly on roadside vegetation at Dunedin. I first encountered it in numbers on November 10,

1950, when I took adults and nymphs on goatweed (*Scoparia dulcis*, fam. *Scrophulariaceae*) growing in a vacant lot in Lakeland. This plant, introduced from Mexico, has escaped from cultivation and now grows wild in this area. It is of interest to note that both this species and *Theognis gonagra* are essentially neotropical in their distribution and that they occur in this region on plants introduced from neotropical areas.

Perigenes similis Barber.—This lygaeid was described from Brownsville, Texas, and has been recorded as far north as Missouri, but has not been reported heretofore from Florida. It is the only member of the genus that I have found at Lakeland, and probably the specimens from Dunedin that Blatchley reported as *P. constrictus* (Say) should be placed here. It is frequently seen at lights in summer. The University of Michigan Museum has a series of *P. similis* collected by Dr. Hubbell at Valdosta, Georgia, on June 9, 1936. Mr. Barber has kindly verified my identification of this species.

Pycnoderes angustatus Reuter.—This mirid, described from Jamaica, is a new addition to the hemipterous fauna of the United States. I took several specimens on April 19, 1949, from tangled vines in a wet woodland beside the Peace River about one mile north of Bartow, Florida. I am indebted to Dr. J. C. M. Carvalho for the identification of these specimens.