



A GRASS STEM INFESTING OTITID FLY (DIPTERA: OTITIDAE)—(Note.) During the spring of 1973, while making routine insect inspections and collections in various grasses, the senior author observed numerous deadhearts in stems of vaseygrass, *Paspalum urvillei* Steud. Stem examination showed these to be infested internally with dipterous larvae and puparia. The stems were attacked prior to emergence of the seedhead, i.e., during the boot stage of development. The newly hatched maggots severed the pre-emergent seedhead and fed on the aborted inflorescence, resulting in a rather moist necrotic situation so often typical of maggot activity. Outwardly the sign of attack is hardly distinguishable from that of the curculionids *Centrinaspis picumnus* Herbst and *Centrinaspis* sp. attacking various digit grasses, *Digitaria* spp., and other grasses.

Several larvae and pupae were collected for rearing to the adult stage. The adult insects were brown, rather elongate, picture-winged (otitid) flies. The junior author determined these to be the species *Zacompsia fulva* Coquillet.

Inspection did not indicate infestation in any other grasses. Since *P. urvillei* usually is considered a weed grass in Florida, no economic damage was attributed to this fly. However, since 20 to 40% of stems were infested and since related grasses, particularly bahiagrass, *P. notatum* Flugge, are grown for pasture and turf in the Everglades and adjacent areas, the fly will bear watching in situations involving seed production. No previous *Z. fulva* host report was found. C. H. Curran (1934. The Families and Genera of North American Diptera; Ballou Press N. Y.) mentioned *Zacompsia* but only in his key to the genera. Alan Stone et al. (1965. A Catalog of the Diptera of America North of Mexico; USDA Agr. Handbook No. 276. Washington, D. C.) recorded the range as: TX and LA to SC south to FL. K. Valley et al. (1969. Ann. Ent. Soc. of America 62:227-34) reported an otitid of similar habits, *Eumetopiella rufipes* (Macquart), attacking inflorescences of barnyard-grass, *Echinochloa crusgalli* L. (Beauv.), in NY and OH. This was the only previous instance reviewed by Robert Lavigne (1974. Bull. Ent. Soc. of Amer. 20(1):11-23) of an otitid attacking inflorescences of living grasses, but grain crops were excluded from the review. William G. Genung, Agr. Res. and Educ. Center, Belle Glade, FL 33430 and Howard V. Weems, Jr., FL Dep. of Agr. and Consumer Services, Div. of Plant Indus., Bur. of Ent., Gainesville, FL 32602.