

***Ellenia obscuricornis* (Poppius)**

Figures 63, 248–250

*Marshalliella obscuricornis* Poppius, 1914a, p. 76.*Psallus tenebrosus* Odhiambo, 1959b, pp. 516–518, 541. **New Synonymy.***Psallus labeculus* Odhiambo, 1959b, pp. 518–521, 541. **New Synonymy.***Ellenia obscuricornis* Carvalho, Dutra, and Becker, 1960, pp. 460–461.

*Ellenia obscuricornis* (Poppius) is one of the most common and widespread members of the Phylinae in South Africa and is the only species in the genus known from the region. It can be recognized by the characters given in the generic discussion and by its generally light green coloration (see also below) with dark spots at the bases of the setiform hairs (and on the femora and tibiae) and the structure of the male genitalia.

MEASUREMENTS: Macropterous ♂ (Sani Pass, 9400 ft.)—Total length 2.88, maximum width 1.24; macropterous ♀ (*idem*)—Total length 3.36, greatest width 1.32.

MALE GENITALIA: Figures 248–250.

FEMALE GENITALIA: Posterior wall a simple sclerotized plate.

The range of variation in this species in South Africa is extreme. The males are usually much darker than the females, particularly the pronotum, mesoscutum, scutellum, and the thoracic and abdominal pleura. In some specimens the antennae are totally black. The long series from Lesotho, Sani Pass, at 8000 and 9400 feet, are particularly dark, the latter locality having uniformly darker specimens than the former. Also, two extremely dark specimens are known from Mariepskop, near Klaserie, Transvaal; these individuals key out in Poppius' key (1914a) to *Marshalliella kilimana* Poppius on the basis of the black antennae, but are actually only very dark specimens of *obscuricornis*. The specimens from the Oliphants River at Citrusdal are all very light green.

A single female specimen of *E. obscuricornis* is present in the Helsinki Museum and three males and one female are present in the British Museum (Natural History). All bear the labels "S. Rhodesia, Chirinda, 12.VII.1911, Swynnerton," and therefore must represent the cotype series examined by Poppius (1914a). I have selected a male in the British Museum as the lectotype and labeled it "LECTOTYPE *Marshalliella obscuricornis* Poppius, det. R. T. Schuh."

*Psallus labeculus* Odhiambo and *Psallus tenebrosus* Odhiambo (Odhiambo, 1959b) both have a keel on the male genital capsule as found in *Ellenia* and have the vesica identical with specimens of