

The orthotyline plant bug genus *Parthenicus* Reuter, 1876, is found primarily in western North America. Only 5 of 72 species have been reported east of the Mississippi River (Carvalho 1958, Knight 1968, Kelton 1980). Recently one of the 5 species, *Parthenicus nigrellus* Knight, was transferred to the genus *Texocoris* Schaffner (Henry 1982).

In this paper, I present for the first time hosts for the type of *Parthenicus*, *P. psalliodes* Reuter, describe 3 new species from Florida, review distributions and host plant information, provide photographs of adults and illustrations of all male parameres, and give a key to the 7 eastern species.

The following abbreviations are for institutions cited in this paper: FSCA—Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Florida Department of Agriculture, Gainesville; PDA—Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg; and USNM—United States National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

Parthenicus Reuter

TYPE-SPECIES: *Parthenicus psalliodes* Reuter, 1876: 85 (Mon.)

DIAGNOSIS: Small, length usually less than 4.5 mm (less than 3.0 mm for eastern U.S. species), elongate; hemelytra subparallel on outer margins; head without a distinct basal carina, eyes large, strongly granulate in males; rostrum reaching metacoxae or beyond; pubescence silvery to golden, simple and sericeous, often intermixed with black scalelike setae, especially on apical area of corium and on cuneus; hemelytra and membrane well developed in macropterous males and females, membrane strongly abbreviated in brachypterous females; legs saltatorial; parempodia convergent.

REMARKS: The genus *Parthenicus* is easily recognized using Knight's (1941, 1968) keys to the Orthotylinae. The small size, dull dorsum, and absence of a basal carina on the head will distinguish this genus from all other North American Orthotylinae. All species have saltatorial hindlegs and are capable of jumping; this trait is especially noticeable in brachypterous females and nymphs.

Male genitalia are small and need to be dissected and viewed under a compound microscope. The aedeagus is simple and bears 2 simplified spiculi. The left paramere in the eastern species is C-shaped with the base thickened and the arch of the C gradually tapered. The right paramere is typically straight, thickened, and spined apically; some right parameres have a medial process that often forms an elongate comb or acute spine. For comparison, Knight (1968) figures parameres of many western species.

Key to the species of *Parthenicus* of eastern United States

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|-------|--|---|
| 1. | Tibial spines without distinct spots at bases | 2 |
| 1'. | Tibial spines with distinct red or brown spots at bases | 4 |
| 2(1). | Metafemora strongly infuscated on dorsal 2/3; scutellum and apical 1/3 of corium with numerous black scalelike setae | |
| | <i>juniperi</i> (Heidemann) | |
| 2'. | Metafemora not infuscated, instead uniformly pale yellow or testaceous; scutellum and apical 1/3 of corium without black scalelike setae | 3 |