

**STHENARUS DISSIMILIS AND ORTHOPS RUBRICATUS:
CONIFER-FEEDING MIRIDS NEW TO NORTH AMERICA
(HEMIPTERA: MIRIDAE)**

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ABSTRACT—The Palearctic mirids *Orthops rubricatus* (Fallén) and *Sthenarus dissimilis* Reuter are reported in North America for the first time. The record of *O. rubricatus* is based on a single specimen taken June 26, 1973 in a northeastern Pennsylvania nursery on white spruce, *Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss. *Sthenarus dissimilis* was abundant on ornamental firs in 5 counties in southeastern Pennsylvania during 1973. Characters are given and figures of the adult, male genitalia, and last-instar nymph are provided to facilitate recognition in the Nearctic fauna. Eggs hatched about May 1; adults matured during late May and became scarce by mid-June. Eggs were laid in older wood of fir stems. Both species probably were introduced with nursery stock imported from Europe.

Sthenarus dissimilis Reuter and *Orthops rubricatus* (Fallén) represent the third and fourth Palearctic mirids discovered in North America during our survey of the Miridae associated with conifers in Pennsylvania (Henry and Wheeler, 1974b). This paper summarizes our observations on these two species.

Sthenarus dissimilis Reuter

Reuter (1878) described this species from eastern France. Hüeber (1913) redescribed *dissimilis* and included a key to the species of *Sthenarus*. Stichel (1934) published another key to species but did not present new information on *S. dissimilis*.

The generic placement of *dissimilis* is unclear. Reuter (1878) apparently considered placing it in the genus *Atractotomus* Fieber because he listed "*Atractotomus dissimilis* Reut. olim in litt." as a synonym. Wagner (1958) placed it in the subgenus *Phoenicocoris* of *Sthenarus*, an arrangement followed by Carvalho (1958) in his "Catalogue of the Miridae of the World." Kerzhner (1962), in noting the uncertain taxonomic position of *dissimilis*, discussed the similarity in general appearance, genitalia, pubescence, and coloration to the genus *Atractotomus*. He noted, however, that the aedeagus was suggestive of the genera *Phoenicocoris* and *Salicarus* but tentatively retained *dissimilis* in *Sthenarus*. He considered *S. carbonarius* Horvath as merely a dark-colored variety of *dissimilis*. Wagner (1967) retained *dissimilis* in *Sthenarus* but placed it in the subgenus *Asthenarius*.

The range of *S. dissimilis*, which includes Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Rumania (Stichel, 1956; Carvalho,