



Fig. 1. Female *Hadronema uhleri* feeding on a *Lytta crotchii* at Gavilan Hills, Riverside Co., CA. (Photo by G. R. Ballmer).

mouthparts into a membranous area of the beetle's body. Areas commonly probed included the membrane between the tarsal claws, between the various leg segments, between the coxae and ventral plates, and between the abdominal terga and sterna. Beetles normally became irritated immediately or within 10 sec. of being bitten. They reacted by kicking, scraping with the legs, and/or decamping. The *Hadronema* usually responded by quickly retreating. Occasional mirids appeared to have difficulty extricating their mouthparts quickly enough and remained attached to the beetle for a short time after this negative behavior began. Reflex bleeding, a common response to external irritation, was never associated with mirid attacks. Most of the mirids remained on the plant during their attempt to feed. However, a few bugs climbed directly on the beetle's dorsum.

The *Hadronema* were most commonly associated with mated individuals. Mated pairs reacted less vigorously to mirid attacks than did solitary individuals. The latter commonly walked or flew from attack sites, although this movement could not definitely be attributed to the mirids. When a meloid moved, the remaining mirids became agitated. If the beetle moved to a nearby site on the same plant, most of the *Hadronema* followed either by walking or flying. If the beetle left the plant entirely, the mirids also quickly dispersed and were soon lost from sight.

Feeding behavior was also elicited when a drop of *Lytta moerens*