

THE IMMATURE STAGES OF MIRIDS (HETEROPTERA) OCCURRING
ON BROOM (*SAROTHAMNUS SCOPARIUS* (L.) WIMMER)
WITH SOME REMARKS ON THEIR BIOLOGY

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I. INTRODUCTION

It is commonly supposed that closely allied species of similar habits are unlikely to occur in the same habitat, or if they do, their habits are likely to change in some way. Therefore, the occurrence of three closely related species of *Orthotyplus* (*O. adenocarpi* (Perris), *O. virescens* (Douglas and Scott) and *O. concolor* (Kirschbaum), of another Orthotyline (*Heterocordylus tibialis* (Hahn)) and yet another Phylinae mirid of the

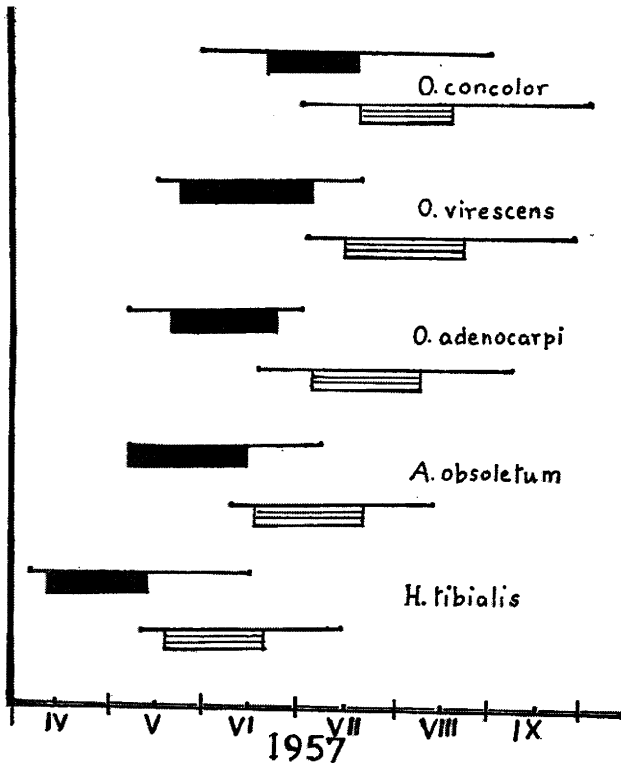


FIG. 1.—Periods of occurrence of mirids on broom (Silwood Park, Berks., 1957). (Black areas, times of abundance of larvae; stencilled areas, times of abundance of adults.)

same appearance and size (*Asciodema obsoletum* (Fieber)) on the same food plant, *Sarothamnus scoparius*, is a phenomenon of both ecological and evolutionary interest. The first four species are essentially restricted to broom, while the last is also found on gorse (*Ulex europaeus* L.).

A group of people comprising Professor O. W. Richards, Dr. J. P. Dempster and the present authors hope to study the population dynamics and the interactions of