

A NEW NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF MICROVELIA (Hem.)¹

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Microvelia gerhardi sp. nov.

Fusiform, plumbeous black, covered with minute sparse yellow pile, and provided with longer silvery hairs which form small shining areas as follows: on the sides of the head, a very narrow line along the inner margin of the eyes, sides of the anterior pronotal lobe, several small maculae on the dorsal surface of the posterior pronotal lobe and the mesonotum, the third dorsal segment of the abdomen entirely, the sides of the first, second, fifth, sixth, and seventh, and a narrow median longitudinal line on the fourth abdominal segment; anterior pronotal lobe with an orange band, scarcely interrupted at the middle. Beneath plumbeous; bucculae, gula, anterior margin of the prostethium and apical margins of all the acetabula flavous; connexivum above and below broadly margined with testaceous, the incisures black; middle of the apical ventral segments testaceous; sides of the venter and the thorax below with silvery hairs which are most numerous on the metastethium and the first ventral segment. Antennae dark testaceous, basal half of the first segment yellow, the fourth segment black; rostrum testaceous, the base and the apical segment piceous. Legs testaceous, femora infuscated above, tibiae and tarsi testaceous.

Head about one-fourth shorter than its width, including the eyes (25:32), somewhat tumidly convex between the eyes; ratios of lengths of antennal segments, I: II: III: IV = 36:31:37:41, the disparity in thickness between segments II and III much less obvious than in *M. americana*; antennae one-fourth longer than the combined length of head and thorax. Thorax $\frac{2}{5}$ longer than the head, its greatest width $\frac{3}{5}$ greater than its median length, gradually narrowed anteriorly, the sides not at all or only very slightly sinuate at the suture between prothorax and mesothorax; pronotum divided into two lobes by a straight (or very feebly sinuate) transverse impression, the semi-elliptical posterior lobe $\frac{3}{5}$ longer than the anterior; metanotal triangles very strongly transverse, occupying about one-fourth of the total

¹ Contribution from the Biology Department of the Washington Square College, New York University.

width of the thorax, two and one-half times as wide as long, their apices very acute, their posterior margins very lightly sinuate. Anterior femora $2/9$ shorter than the intermediate ones, these $1/6$ shorter than the posterior femore. Connexivum almost vertical in the specimens before me.

Alate form unknown to me, but probably that described by Uhler under the name *Microvelia americana* in the "Hemiptera of Colorado," page 61 (1895).

Length 3.3 mm., humeral width 1.3 mm.

Localities: COLORADO, Golden, 23. VII. 1909 (W. J. Gerhard). Type in my collection; Nebraska: Glen, Sioux Co., Aug., 1903 (H. G. Barber).

This species is very similar to *M. americana* Uhler of the eastern United States, first described as a species of Hebrus; and it has certainly been confused with that form, even by Uhler himself, as suggested above. *M. gerhardi* differs from *M. americana*, however, in numerous characters; it is larger, the head and thorax are longer, the lateral margins of the thorax are less sinuate, the posterior pronotal lobe is longer, and the antennae are otherwise constructed. To facilitate comparison, some of the distinguishing characters of the eastern species are summarized below.

Microvelia americana Uhler. Ratios of lengths of antennal segments, I:II:III:IV = 31:20:32:43, antennae somewhat more than one-fourth longer than head and thorax combined (126:97): head one-third shorter than its width including the eyes; thorax of the apterous form twice as wide as it is long, posterior pronotal lobe one-fourth longer than the anterior lobe; metanotal triangles less acute at their apices than in *M. gerhardi*; anterior femora almost one-sixth shorter than the intermediate ones, these about one-twelfth shorter than the posterior femora.

A Change of Name. (Hemiptera, Miridae).—In 1922 (*Psyche*, xxix, p. 230; issued January, 1923) I redescribed *Orthotylus delicatus* Cook, a species whose original description had been entirely overlooked before. It appears to be the consensus of opinion that this name, written *Orthotylus (Psallus) delicatus* by Cook in 1893, is preoccupied by *Psallus delicatus* Uhler, 1887. Therefore I propose the name *Orthotylus althaeae*, nom. nov., for Cook's species.—R. F. Hussey, New York, N. Y.