

differences in tylus structure between *pallipes*, *M. ephedra* and *M. froeschneri*. Because of the similarities in the structure of the tylus, pretarsus, metathoracic scent-gland evaporatory area, and the vesica of the male I am treating the two genera as synonymous, *Merinocapsus* having page priority.

The three species here placed in *Merinocapsus* all breed exclusively on *Ephedra*. *Merinocapsus ephedrae* and *froeschneri* have been collected together at the same site on the same host species, as have *froeschneri* and *pallipes*. I am uncertain whether they occurred on the same plant. Known *Ephedra* host species include *aspera* Englem. ex Wats., *cutleri* Peebles, *nevadensis* S. Wats., *torreyana* S. Wats., and *viridis* Coville.

Nearly all known specimens of *Merinocapsus* have been collected on *Ephedra*. Of the approximately 320 specimens examined, only one was recorded from lights, and a few lacked host information. A single specimen recorded from *Astragalus* is obviously not an accurate host record.

Additional species from western North America known to feed exclusively on *Ephedra*, and often occurring with *Merinocapsus* species, include the mirines *Phytocoris becki* Knight, *Phytocoris ephedrae* Knight, and the orthotylinines *Ephedrodoma multilineata* Polhemus and Polhemus. Knight (1968) also recorded *Phytocoris pulchricollis* Van Duzee, and *Lopidea scutata* Knight on *Ephedra*. It is not obvious from my field observations that these last two species are obligate *Ephedra* feeders. The Palearctic phyline genus *Nasocoris* Reuter contains 11 species, all of which feed on *Ephedra*.

Merinocapsus ephedrae Knight

Figs. 1, 5, 8-10, 11-13, 20

Merinocapsus ephedrae Knight, 1968:34.

Diagnosis. Distinguished from *froeschneri* by the dull head, pronotum, and scutellum, the more elongate narrow body form, unicolorous dark femora, the generally infusate tibiae, and the structure of the apex of the vesica (Figs. 9-11). Distinguished from *pallipes* by the completely dark head, pronotum, scutellum, venter, and legs, the hemelytral coloration with at least the cuneus reddish, the longer labium reaching to the apex of the mesocoxae, and the structure of the vesica.

Measurements: Total length: ♂, 3.45-4.31; ♀, 2.80-3.24. Length apex tylus-cuneal fracture: ♂, 2.27-2.83; ♀, 2.02-2.37. Width head: ♂, 0.79-0.86; ♀, 0.82-0.93. Width vertex: ♂, 0.37-0.42; ♀, 0.41-0.48. Width pronotum: ♂, 1.00-1.12; ♀, 0.95-1.10. Length pronotum at midline: ♂, 0.35-0.46; ♀, 0.38-0.43. Length second antennal segment: ♂, 0.94-1.18; ♀, 0.76-0.92.

Male genitalia: Figures. 11-13.

Distribution. Figure. 20. Northern Baja California north to Mono Lake, California, and east to eastern Utah.

Specimens examined. MEXICO. Baja California Norte: 12 mi E of El Rosario, March 25, 1979, John D. Pinto, on *Ephedra* (AMNH, UCR), 7♂♂, 5♀♀; 6 mi E of Ojos Negros, June 9, 1980, Brown, Faulkner (SDNHM), ♀. USA. California: Inyo Co.: Tuttle Creek, 2 mi SW of Lone Pine, May 9, 1969, P. A. Opler (UCB), ♂. 2 mi E of Westgard Pass Summit, White Mts., 2,125 m, July 2, 1980, R. T. Schuh, ex *Ephedra nevadensis* (AMNH), 6♀♀; Inyo Mts., May 25, 1937, D. Little (LACM), ♀.