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A Preliminary List of the Rhagionidae (Diptera) Known to Occur in Iowa

By KEITH L. RHODEBECK AND D. D. MILLSPAUGH

The members of the family Rhagionidae, commonly called snipe flies, are predaceous in larval and adult stages. The adults of a few blood sucking species have been known to attack man. The larvae are found in a great variety of situations, the terrestrial forms found under bark of trees, in dung, fungi, soil, moss, and wood. The larvae of the genus *Atherix*, found in the Far West, differ in this respect by being aquatic in nature. The adults of this family are found in long grass, on trees, logs, and in general in moist areas of heavy foliage.

The various species of Rhagionidae differ in length, ranging from small to medium sized insects. They are conspicuous for their long, slender, spider like legs, the tibiae of which may or may not contain spurs. The body is naked or hairy, tapering into an abdomen of from six to eight larger segments and several irregular caudal segments, depending upon the species. Often, the hairy covering, when present, is short, very dense and of strongly-contrasting colors.

The most distinguishing characteristics of the Rhagionids are found in the head, the top and middle of which is convex, the face strongly receding. Three ocelli are present. The males are either holoptic or the eyes are very narrowly separated. Three segments compose the antennae, the third segment bearing a terminal or dorsal arista.

The wings are broad, being held half open when at rest. They are hyaline in some species while in others, fuscous spots are in noticeable evidence. The venation is distinct and comparatively generalized.

The Iowa Insect Survey Collection contains the following thirteen families which represent over twenty years of collecting and determining.

Chrysopilus foedus Lw.

Chrysopilus modestus Lw.

Chrysopilus ornatus Say

Chrysopilus proximus Wlk.

Chrysopilus quadratus Say

Chrysopilus sp.

Dialysis fasciventris Loew.

Rhagio mystaceus Macq.

Rhagio plumbeus Say

Rhagio vertebratus Say

Symphoromyia cinerea Jn.

Symphoromyia flavipes Bigot

Xylomyia sp.

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