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A report on the Iowa Species of Tachinidae * (Diptera) in the Iowa Insect Survey Collection

By H. E. JAQUES

The family Tachinidae * is one of the most important families of flies. Well over 1500 species are known for our continent and more than 5000 species have been named for the entire world. Their chief value to man lies in their parasitic habits. Many of the species are highly destructive to injurious insects, especially the caterpillars of the Lepidoptera. Their usual procedure is to search out a prospective host and attach one or more eggs to the surface, often in some place which the victim cannot reach with its jaws. The maggot upon hatching immediately enters its host and lives in the open blood sinuses where the nutriment is rich but no vital parts of the host are injured. The maggots may leave their host when they have completed their growth and pupate in the ground or other protected place, but in the case of many species remain within the host to pupate and later emerge as an adult. The host caterpillar frequently pupates before the maggot has completed its growth. That makes but little difference to the tachinid larva which then feeds upon the contents of the pupa and in turn pupates within it. Presently, then, instead of a moth or butterfly emerging from the pupal case one or more tachinid flies appear.

There is considerable diversity in the life histories of the many members of this family. Some tachinids hurry matters by depositing living larvae instead of eggs usually inserting them through the skin of the host. Some species produce as few as 50 eggs while other tachinids may produce 5000 eggs or larvae.

The adults of some species measure only two or three millimeters in length, but most of the species are fairly bulky, medium to large size flies, some attaining a length of nearly 20mm. The abdomen, especially the apical end, is usually covered with heavy bristles. One soon comes to recognize or suspect members of the family by the presence of such bristles.

The many students and others who through the years have collected the specimens now in the Iowa Insect Survey collection have taken tachinids in only an incidental way along with their other catches. None has specialized in the group. The list which follows gives the names of 82 known Iowa species. This number

* This family is now, possibly more correctly, known as the Larvaevoridae.

could doubtless be greatly enlarged by specialized collecting and study. It is hoped that some one may give this group the further attention it merits.

The number preceding the name in each case is a catalog number used for arranging and locating the specimens in the collection. Determinations have been made or checked by various specialists.

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|---|--|
| 256-61 <i>Cistogaster immaculata</i> Macq. | 268-61 <i>Eucelatoria armigera</i> Coq. |
| 256-71 <i>Gymnoclytia occidua</i> (Walk.) | 268-73 <i>Phorocera pachypyga</i> Ald. & Web. |
| 257-2 <i>Rhodogyne fuliginosa</i> (Desv.)
(<i>Gymnosoma</i>) | 268-74 <i>Phorocera tortricis</i> Coq. |
| 257-3 <i>Rhodogyne occidentalis</i> Cur.
(<i>Gymnosoma</i>) | 268-75 <i>Phorocera erecta</i> Coq. |
| 258-12 <i>Trichopoda pennipes</i> Fab. | 269-1 <i>Phorocera claripennis</i> Macq. |
| 258-31 <i>Myiophasis metallica</i> Towns. | 269-83 <i>Doryphorophaga doryphorae</i> Rly. |
| 260-42 <i>Celatoria diabroticae</i> Shim. | 269-84 <i>Doryphorophaga macella</i> Rein. |
| 260-71 <i>Xenadmontia degeerioides</i> Coq. | 270-61 <i>Minthozelia montana</i> Towns. |
| 260-81 <i>Admontia pergandei</i> Coq. | 271-52 <i>Leschensultia leucophrys</i> Wied. |
| 261-22 <i>Lixophaga plumbea</i> Ald. | 271-72 <i>Winthemia quadripustulata</i> Fab. |
| 261-52 <i>Oedematocera gilvipes</i> Coq. | 271-73 <i>Winthemia rufopicta</i> Bigot |
| 261-63 <i>Pseudomyothyria ancilla</i> Walk. | 271-74 <i>Winthemia sinuata</i> Rein. |
| 262-61 <i>Leskiomima tenera</i> Wied. | 271-75 <i>Winthemia datanae</i> Towns. |
| 263-11 <i>Phrynofrontina discalis</i> Coq. | 272-1 <i>Paradidyma singularis</i> Towns. |
| 263-66 <i>Cryptomeigenia theutis</i> Walk. | 272-2 <i>Paradidyma setigera</i> Coq. |
| 264-21 <i>Crocuta geniculata</i> DeG.
(<i>Siphona</i>) | 272-3 <i>Paradidyma affinis</i> Rein. |
| 264-61 <i>Blepharigena cinerea</i> Coq. | 272-26 <i>Ceracia dentata</i> Coq. |
| 264-81 <i>Voria ruralis</i> Fall. | 272-46 <i>Leucostoma atra</i> Towns. |
| 265-41 <i>Belvosia bifasciata</i> Fab. | 272-72 <i>Tachinomyia panaetius</i> Walk. |
| 265-71 <i>Aphria ocypterata</i> Towns. | 272-73 <i>Tachinomyia variata</i> Cur. |
| 266-3 <i>Cylindromyia dosiades</i> Walk. | 272-91 <i>Achaetoneura frenchii</i> Will. |
| 266-5 <i>Cylindromyia binotata</i> Bigot | 272-92 <i>Achaetoneura Archippivora</i> Will. |
| 266-6 <i>Cylindromyia nana</i> Towns. | 273-11 <i>Oxynops anthracina</i> Bigot |
| 266-41 <i>Bonnetia comta</i> Fall. | 273-45 <i>Salmacia frontosa</i> Say
(<i>Gonia</i>) |
| 266-51 <i>Pyraustomyia penitalis</i> Coq. | 273-48 <i>Salmacia sequax</i> Will.
(<i>Gonia</i>) |
| 266-61 <i>Mericia ampelus</i> Walk.
(<i>Ernestia</i>) | 273-50 <i>Salmacia senilis</i> Will.
(<i>Gonia</i>) |
| 266-71 <i>Amedoria luctuosa</i> Mg. | 273-71 <i>Acroglossa hesperidarum</i> Will. |
| 267-22 <i>Gymnocheta ruficornis</i> Will. | 273-73 <i>Spallanzania bucephala</i> Mg. |
| 267-31 <i>Lydina areos</i> Walk. | 273-81 <i>Eugaediopsis ocellaris</i> Coq. |
| 267-53 <i>Nemorilla floralis</i> Fall. | 274-1 <i>Chaetogaedia analis</i> Wulp. |
| 267-71 <i>Carcelia amplexa</i> Coq.
(<i>Zenillia</i>) | 274-2 <i>Chaetogaedia monticola</i> Bigot |
| 268-1 <i>Aplomya caesar</i> Ald.
(<i>Zenillia</i>) | 274-3 <i>Chaetogaedia crebra</i> Wulp. |
| 268-5 <i>Aplomya confinis</i> Fall.
(<i>Zenillia</i>) | 274-51 <i>Peleteriaanaxias</i> Walk. |
| 268-8 <i>Zenillia futilis</i> O. S. | |

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SPECIES OF TACHINIDAE

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|---|---|
| 274-53 <i>Peleteria iterans</i> Walk. | 276-71 <i>Zelia vertebrata</i> Say |
| 274-55 <i>Peleteria apicalis</i> Walk. | 276-91 <i>Copecrypta nitens</i> Wied. |
| 274-72 <i>Archytas aterrima</i> Desv. | 277-21 <i>Paradexodes aurifrons</i>
Towns. |
| 274-74 <i>Archytas lateralis</i> Macq. | 277-31 <i>Euclytia flava</i> Towns. |
| 274-75 <i>Archytas apicifera</i> Walk. | 278-1 <i>Thelaira americana</i> Brooks |
| 274-76 <i>Archytas metallica</i> Desv. | 278-62 <i>Spathidexia dunningi</i> Coq. |
| 275-71 <i>Microphthalma disjuncta</i>
Wied. | 278-82 <i>Dinera cinera</i> Towns. |
| 275-72 <i>Microphthalma michiganensis</i>
Towns. | |

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