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A Preliminary List of Hemerobiidae Known to Occur in Iowa

By DONOVAN ORMAN and H. E. JAQUES

The brown lace wings (family Hemerobiidae) are fairly inconspicuous, fragile little insects sometimes flying in abundance at lights and frequently taken by general collecting such as sweeping plants or in examining dead leaves on the ground or other debris.

The adults are of medium size and are inconspicuous in their natural habitat. The wings are iridescent and hairy with numerous small cells and many cross veins. The mouth parts are of a simple biting type, but in the larvae a modified biting and sucking type exists. In this type the mandibles are short and curved with grooves on the ventral surfaces, these combine with the maxillae to form channels that lead to the pharynx since no true mouth exists.

Adult hemerobiids of the genus *Micromus* may be collected in the winter under leaves, but as warm weather approaches they tend to congregate on coniferous trees. Their flight is erratic and it would appear as though they receive more protection from coloration than from flight.

The hemerobiids may be thought of as a highly beneficial family since they are predators of aphids, scale insects, mealy bugs and some other soft bodied insects. The larva has been given the name "Aphis wolf" in contrast to the larvae of the Chrysopidae where the term "Aphis lion" seems to prevail.

Many specimens have been collected and examined but only the following six species are known to occur in Iowa. The authors are grateful to Roger C. Smith and to F. M. Carpenter for help at different times with the literature and determinations.

The numbers preceding the scientific names are from an improvised catalog and are used in arranging the specimens in the Iowa Insect Survey Collection.

- 39-52 *Hemerbius conjunctus* Fitch
- 39-54 *Hemerbius humuli* L.
- 39-58 *Hemerbius stigmaterus* Fitch
- 39-59 *Hemerbius tutatrix* Fitch
- 40-14 *Micromus posticus* Wlk.
- 40-15 *Micromus subanticus* Wlk.

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