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A Rare Variant of Pollenia Rudis, the Iowa Winter House-Fly

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A RARE VARIANT OF *POLLENIA RUDIS*, THE IOWA WINTER HOUSE-FLY

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Several specimens of *Pollenia rudis* (*Fab.*) were taken by the author and Glenn Primmer Jr., between Vinton and Garrison, Iowa, on July 5, 1941, following a cold rain and hail storm. These had been observed prior to the storm on white sweet-clover along the railroad track, but were so active as to elude the net. Benumbed by the storm, several specimens were secured by sweeping the wet sweet-clover.

When the specimens were studied, little variation was found within the species, except where nutritional stunting of larvae had produced runt specimens as in other species. One specimen from the lot, however, was an exception. This rare morphological variant, the subject of this paper, has been deposited in the Entomological Collection of Iowa State College.

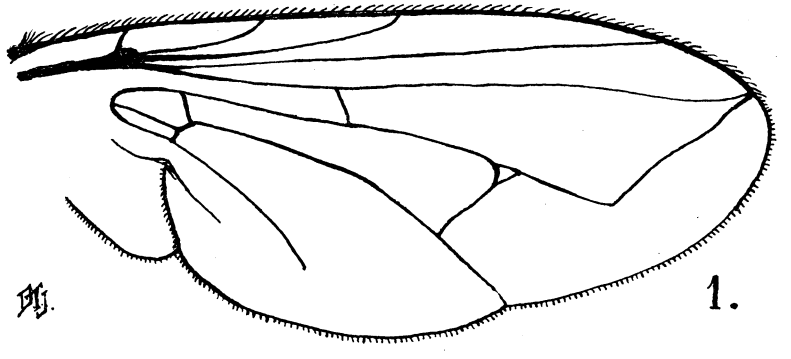
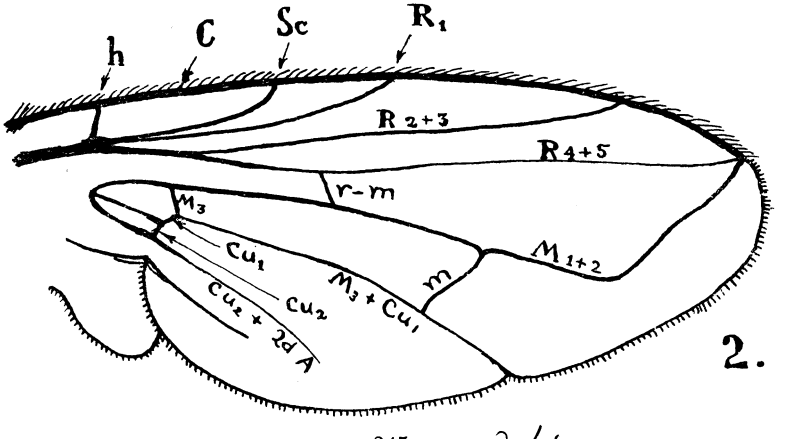


Fig. 1.



2.

This specimen was of normal size, but had a split median cross-vein (as shown in fig. 1). The cross-vein in question, as it normally appears in *Pollenia rudis*, is shown as "m" of figure 2 (nomenclature of the Comstock-Needham system). Both wings of this individual showed the same phenomenon. No other specimen in the group taken, showed any tendency to vary in this respect, nor have I seen any such tendency in approximately 500 specimens of this species examined at other times. No other abnormalties were noted in this individual. There is the possibility that this condition, instead of being a mutation, may be a reversion to the separated condition, in this region of the wing, of the fused first and second median veins (M_{1+2}).

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