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NOTE ON A NEW SPECIES OF PHLÆOTHRIPS, WITH DESCRIPTION.

 HERBERT OSBORN.

In connection with the paper by Miss Beach on the Thripidæ it seems desirable to describe a species which has for a long time been in our collections, but has not received a technical description.

Phloeothrips verbasci, n. sp. Black, polished; head quadrate with a prominent post-ocular bristle; prothorax widened behind; first joint of anterior tarsi armed on inner side with a curved tooth.

Female: Head quadrate, very slightly constricted behind, a prominent bristle behind the eye; antennæ light yellowish with dusky base and tip, joints 1 and 2 black, 3-6 yellow, 7-8 dusky, ending with two bristles; prothorax widening behind, with prominent angles, three lateral bristles; meso and meta-thorax subquadrate. Legs black except anterior tibiæ and all tarsi which are yellow, the tarsi somewhat clouded with dusky. Anterior tarsi with a short curved tooth on inner side of first joint at middle. Wings hyaline except base of anterior pair, which is fuliginous; anterior pair with no fringe at base; anal vein entire; median vein distinct at base, but becoming obsolete; three long spines in a row on the inner side of the median vein near base; posterior wings at base with two long, slender bristles near together on hind margin; abdomen at apex with six long and seven short bristles; tube reticulate.

Male smaller than female and having two slender spines on a slight elevation at side of the anterior margin of the first segment of the abdomen.

Length of male 1.50-1.60 mm., female 1.80-1.90 mm.

This species stands near to *nigra*, Osb., but differs decidedly from that species in the more quadrate head, prominent posterior angles of the prothorax, as also in the presence of two prominent bristles just behind the eyes and the different number and character of bristles at apex of tube.

It occurs almost invariably in mullein, hibernating in the stools, and may be found in early spring at the base of the fresh leaves, especially among the dense interior leaves. The whitish, cylindrical eggs are deposited during April, and larvæ develop on the mullein leaves. The larvæ differ decidedly from the larvæ of *nigra*, in being yellow or orange instead of deep red.

Adults, bred forms of which matured June 20th to 26th, are found in mullein blossoms in midsummer (July), and probably produce a second brood. Adults have been taken in September in the seed pods, and in November at the base of dead mullein stalks.

This is the species referred to in my article on "The Food Habits of the Thripidæ" (Insect Life, Vol. I, p. 141) as *Phloeothrips* sp., the species being cited in evidence of an herbivorous diet for the Thripidæ.