

## SOME ROBBER FLIES FROM CAMPBELL COUNTY TENNESSEE

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In the summer of 1934 while working in Campbell County, Tennessee, the writer became interested in Tennessee Asilidae or Robber Flies. Robber flies were frequently noticed which were different from those occurring in Ohio, which aroused interest in them and it was decided to make a survey of the species of the area. Most of the writer's vacations since that time have been spent in this region collecting the Asilidae. As a result of this collecting, records of some 837 specimens, including 53 species from Campbell County, are listed in this paper.

The collecting has been done mainly in two localities, one near Cedar Creek and the other on Cumberland Mountain at LaFollette. The Cedar Creek area is located about seven miles southeast of LaFollette and embraces the drainage area of Cedar Creek. The locality on Cumberland Mountain is just north of LaFollette. Some thirty-eight species were taken in the Cedar Creek area and thirty-one species on Cumberland Mountain. Specimens of all the species in this list have been deposited in the Ohio State Museum Collection; some have been presented to Dr. S. W. Bromley, and a few have been retained by the writer. All of the specimens in this list were taken by the writer. In order to make this list more useful a note as to habitat and occurrence has been added after each species.

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### A LIST OF ROBBER FLIES FROM CAMPBELL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

1. *Leptogaster flavipes* Loew. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., July 3, 1939—1; Cedar Creek, June 11, 1943—1. This species was collected at the edge of pine thickets among grasses and other vegetation. Not common.

2. *Leptogaster pictipes* Loew. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., Aug. 14, 1948—5; Cedar Creek, May 25 to August 27—40 specimens. Common. This small *Leptogaster* is easily overlooked. Occurs in both dry and damp situations. On the Cumberland Mountain it has been taken by sweeping in low vegetation along a path; near Cedar Creek in damp situations among weeds in ditches, along washouts and among grasses at the edge of woods.

3. *Leptogaster testaceus* Loew. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., July 3, 1939—1; Uncommon. This is a large light brown colored *Leptogaster* with bright green eyes. The single specimen was taken by sweeping in broom-sedge.

4. *Leptogaster incisuralis* Loew. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., Aug. 26, 1940—8; a late season species, occurring around the edge of pine thickets and grassy borders, resting on the grass and twigs of pine trees, near the ground.

5. *Dioctria albius* Walker. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., May 27, 1939—2, May 30, 1949—1. A small black species with an iridescent gloss to the winks. Found on tips of leaves in low vegetation.

6. *Holcocephala abdominalis* Say. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., Aug. 26, 1941—9; Cedar Creek, June 10 to September 7—21 specimens. This species is one of the commonest of robber flies, found both in damp and dry situations. It may be taken in numbers by sweeping the grass where they occur, or by watching for them on the tips of dead twigs and grasses close to the ground.

7. *Holcocephala* n. sp. (Description by Bromley to appear in *American Museum Novitates*. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., August 13, 1938—1; Cedar Creek, July 8 to Sept. 7—51 specimens. Apparently common. This species is found in the same situations with *H. abdominalis*.

8. *Holopogon guttula* Wied. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., May 27 to June 12—10; Cedar Creek, June 10, 1943—5. This is a small dark species found on the tips of twigs on low shrubs and trees. Probably more common than the records show.

9. *Cyrtopogon falso* Walker. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., May 24, 1939—5, May 25, 1939—2, May 27, 1939—2. A small, black-colored species found in shaded woods, on bare sandy patches and on the leaves of low vegetation near the ground.

10. *Cyrtopogon lutatius* Walker. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., June 12, 1943—1. The one specimen was found resting on a stone along a path on Cumberland Mountain. This species usually alights on stones on the ground.

11. *Lasiopogon opaculus* Loew. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., May 24, 1939—1. Found on the ground in a path on the mountain. The only one seen. This species is found in Ohio in numbers on gravel and washed sand along streams.

12. *Diogmites misellus* Loew. Cedar Creek, July 12, 1942—1. Found in the same situations and with *D. neoternatus*. Other specimens have been observed which appear to be this species, but only the one was taken. Found in open fields of clover and around blackberry bushes.

13. *Diogmites neoternatus* Bromley. Cedar Creek, July 8 to September 7—18 specimens. A common species, found usually around blackberry bushes and clover fields. Many more specimens were seen than were taken.

14. *Diogmites umbrinus* Loew. "Dunlap Station," near LaFollette, July 14-16, 1934—1. Occurs in damp situations along streams and among weeds in low fields.

15. *Cerotainia macrocera* Say. Cedar Creek, July 7 to September 4—18 specimens. A small, black, shiny species found on tips of dead twigs and on the tips of green leaves.

16. *Cerotainia albipilosa* Curran. Cedar Creek, June 10, 1943—1. This species is not now considered distinct from *C. macrocera*.

17. *Atomosia puella* Wied. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., Aug. 14, 1948—1; Cedar Creek, May 25 to September 4—137 specimens. This seems to be one of the most abundant robber flies in this region. It is found abundantly in many situations; on fence posts, rail fences, slab piles, barns, sides of houses, on stones, tree trunks and sides of trees.

18. *Taracticus octopunctatus* Say. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., July 3, 1939—3, June 12, 1943—1; Cedar Creek, July 7, 1942—1. Apparently an uncommon species found on tips of leaves of shrubs or low bushes.

19. *Andrenosoma (Nusa) fulvicauda* Say. Cedar Creek, July 13 to August 15—7 specimens. This species is found on oak logs and stumps or on brush. Two specimens were found on a pile of branches from a cut pear tree.
20. *Lampria bicolor* Wiedeman. "Dunlap Station," near LaFollette, July 16-17, 1934—1. A small black and red species. The only one seen was found at rest on a newly cut railroad tie. In Ohio this species is found around oak logs.
21. *Laphria canis* Williston. Cedar Creek, July 2, 1939—1. This small black species may be more common than collecting has indicated. Probably more common in low, damp situations.
22. *Laphria sicula* McAtee. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., June 12, 1943—1. This species occurs in similar situations to *L. canis*.
23. *Laphria ithyppyga* McAtee. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., June 12, 1943—1, May 30, 1949—1. The specimens were collected from leaves on low vegetation along a path on the mountain. This species is found in Ohio on oak logs and leaves of vegetation near fallen logs.
24. *Laphria saffrana* Fab. Cedar Creek, May 29 to June 23—7 specimens. This is a bright orange species resembling a queen *Vespa squamosa*. A common species in the southern United States, occurring on pine logs and stumps.
25. *Laphria sericea* Say. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., June 12, 1943—1; Cedar Creek, May 25, 1939—1. A common woodland species.
26. *Bombomima affinis* Macq. Cedar Creek, September 3, 1941—1. A late season species.
27. *Bombomima cinerea* Banks. Cedar Creek, June 2, 1947—1. A small *Bombomima* found on logs and stumps of pine trees. Of a number of specimens seen, only one was taken. Difficult to capture.
28. *Bombomima flavicollis* Say. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., May 24, 1939—1; Cedar Creek, June 11, 1943—1, May 31, 1947—1, June 2, 1947—1. This species is apparently a common one, although only a few specimens were taken.
29. *Bombomima grossa* Fabr. Cedar Creek, July 9, 1942—1, July 11, 1942—1, June 4, 1947—1, May 29, 1949—1. Not common. Several specimens were seen which were not taken.
30. *Bombomima thoracica* Fab. LaFollette, June 12, 1934—1; Stinking Creek, May 31, 1937—1; Cedar Creek, June 4, 1947—1, June 5, 1947—1. A common species, although only a few were taken. It prefers low damp situations.
31. *Bombomima divisor* Banks. LaFollette, May 24, 1939—3. Apparently not a common species in the territory collected.
32. *Bombomima* n. sp. (Description by Bromley to appear in *American Museum Novitates*.) LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., June 12, 1943—1, June 3, 1947—2, June 6, 1947—3. A large species resembling *B. grossa*. This species was found on Cumberland Mt., at one locality only.
33. *Bombomima posticata* Say. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., May 27, 1939—1. Not common. This was the only one seen. Associated with pine.
34. *Bombomima virginica* Banks. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., May 27, 1939—2, June 12, 1943—1; Cedar Creek, May 25 to June 11—24 specimens. A common species in cut-over pine thickets, alighting on the vegetation near the ground, around pine logs and stumps.
35. *Ommatius tibialis* Say. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., July 3, 1939—2; Cedar Creek, May 25 to June 11—39 specimens. A common species found on the tips of twigs and dead weed stalks along the borders of woods.
36. *Mallophora orcina* Wied. Cedar Creek, July 15 to September 7—18 specimens. This species which resembles the bumble-bee, *Bomus americanorum*, is very common in the southern United States and is found around clover fields and swales where it feeds on bumblebees and honeybees.

37. *Mallophora clausicella* Macq. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., Aug. 13 to Aug. 26—4; Cedar Creek, July 3 to September 7—34 specimens. Common. Found perching on broom-sedge on dry hillsides.

38. *Promachus rufipes* Fabr. Cedar Creek, August 8 to September 7—9 specimens. Found around blackberry patches in open fields, around broom-sedge on hillsides and in open woods. This species is rather common in the region but is difficult to capture.

39. *Promachus bastardi* Macq. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., July 3, 1939—2; Cedar Creek, July 8 to July 17—5 specimens. Common in some situations in low-lying fields grown up to weeds. Also found in dry situations on the mountain.

40. *Proctacanthus brevipennis* Wied. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., June 3 to June 17—14 specimens. Found only on the mountain, along a path in a sandy area. Has been seen in no other situation by the writer.

41. *Proctacanthus milbertii* Macq. Cedar Creek, September 4 to September 7—9 specimens. Found in open pasture and clover fields. A common late season species.

42. *Erax aestuans* Linn. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., July 12 to August 26—7 specimens. Cedar Creek, May 31 to September 7—62 specimens. One of the most common species in mid and late summer. Usually found in dry situations on fences, posts, barns, houses, sides of trees, and on stones on the ground. Feeds largely on flies.

43. *Erax interruptus* Macq. LaFollette, July 12 to July 17—14 specimens; "Dunlap Station," near LaFollette, July 14 to July 16—3; Cedar Creek, July 2 to September 7—23 specimens. A common species in the southern United States, occurring along roadsides, in paths, and on bare areas, on the ground.

44. *Erax rufibarbis* Macq. Cedar Creek, August 27 to September 7—30 specimens. Common. Found in open fields on the ground or in low vegetation.

45. *Asilus antimachus* Walker. Cedar Creek, July 11, 1942—2, June 10, 1943—1, August 7, 1948—1. This may be more common than the records indicate. It is usually more abundant along streams and in damp situations.

46. *Asilus autumnalis* Banks. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., August 26, 1940—3; Cedar Creek, August 27, 1940—1. This species is not common.

47. *Asilus auricomus* Hine. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., August 26, 1940—2. This should be more common than the two records indicate.

48. *Asilus flavofemoratus* Hine. Cedar Creek, June 10, 1943—2, June 11, 1943—2. These were found resting on the dead lower branches of pine trees in an open pine thicket.

49. *Asilus maneci* Hine. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., August 14, 1948—1; Cedar Creek, June 2 to August 27—33 specimens. Found on tips of twigs of fallen brush in the woods, on rail fences, sides of trees, and stumps. Common late in the season.

50. *Asilus notatus* Wied. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., May 27 to June 17—33 specimens; Cedar Creek, May 29 to September 4—38 specimens. This is a very common early season species, usually alighting on the ground or on low vegetation.

51. *Asilus sadyates* Walker. Cedar Creek, September 4, 1941—1. A late season species resembling *A. notatus*.

52. *Asilus sericeus* Say. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., June 12, 1943—1; Cedar Creek, May 29 to July 15—18 specimens. A common species occurring in weed patches in damp situations.

53. *Asilus virginicus* Banks. LaFollette, Cumberland Mt., June 12, 1943—1; Cedar Creek, July 2, 1939—1. An uncommon species resembling *A. notatus*.