

## PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE TRICHOPTERA OF REELFOOT LAKE<sup>1</sup>

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During the past two years, the writer has been engaged in a taxonomic study of the Trichoptera of Middle and West Tennessee. With the kind permission of Dr. C. L. Baker, Director of the Reelfoot Lake Biological Station, the writer collected at this station at intervals between May 8, 1954, and July 12, 1954. Previous work done on Trichoptera in this area is negligible, and the writer is well aware that much work remains to be done.

Imagal collections were made by means of a 300 watt lamp or a Coleman gasoline lantern, the choice depending upon the habitat to be searched. Collections were made on Bayou du Chien or in and around Blue Basin as indicated. For the topography of this area, the reader is referred to the January, 1942, issue of the Report of the Reelfoot Lake Biological Station in which may be found as a special supplement, a large insert map.

Clearing of the genitalia and the identification thereof is essentially the procedure outlined in Ross (1944). The present status of the problem will not allow more than a listing of the families with genera and species and pertinent comments where indicated.

### FAMILY PSYCHOMYIIDAE ULMER, 1907

#### *Polycentropus crassicornis* Walker, 1852

The larva of this species is unknown. The adults were collected only on Bayou du Chien and were few in numbers. Ross (1944) notes that "the species is widespread throughout the eastern United States and Canada with records from Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ontario, and South Dakota." Collection of this form at Reelfoot Lake constitutes an extension of the known distribution.

#### *Cynnellus marginalis* Banks, 1930

Only one North American species is known for this genus. The immature stages are unknown. This species is widespread in distribution throughout the central states. At Reelfoot Lake, this was easily the most numerous of the species collected by light, but even at midday they continually flitted around the boles of the cypress trees in Blue Basin.

### FAMILY HYDROPSYCHIDAE MCLACHLAN, 1878

This family is one of the most abundant groups found in the Middle and West Tennessee although this was not the case at Reelfoot Lake. The larvae show a marked preference for rapids in streams or any current although such conditions do not obtain at Reelfoot.

<sup>1</sup>Contribution from the Reelfoot Lake Biological Station No. 85

*Hydropsyche orris* Ross, 1938

This species is quite common along the larger rivers and although not in great numbers at Reelfoot Lake, they were found in quantity along the Mississippi River only a few miles away. All were collected on Bayou du Chien by light. The range is widespread.

*H. simulans* Ross, 1938

In most respects regarding distribution and numbers, this species is quite similar to *H. orris* Ross. It was collected only along Bayou du Chien at Reelfoot Lake.

## FAMILY HYDROPTILIDAE McLACHLAN, 1878

This family is composed of the so-called "micro" caddisflies. The range of the family is widespread and is found in diverse habitats.

*Orthotrichia americana* Banks, 1904

The specimens of this form were collected on Bayou du Chien where the insects were secreted under loose bark on trees located along the waters edge. Collection was also made from duck blinds located in Blue Basin. The range is reported to be Dist. of Columbia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Texas, and Virginia. Its collection at Reelfoot constitutes an extension of known distribution.

## FAMILY PHRYGANEIDAE McLACHLAN, 1878

*Ptilostomis postica* Walker, 1852

The range of this species is poorly known and at present includes Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York. The collections at Reelfoot Lake yielded only three specimens, two males and a female, which were taken on different nights, and in each case, the insects were hovering around a 60 watt yellow "insect repellent" bulb located on the porch of the Biological Station while the 300 watt collection bulb was in use about 75 feet distant. Collection of this species at Reelfoot constitutes an extension of its known range.

## FAMILY LEPTOCERIDAE McLACHLAN, 1878

This family is very well represented throughout Middle and West Tennessee, both in numbers of species and in numbers of individuals. As may be seen, this was true at Reelfoot also.

*Leptocerus americanus* Banks, 1899

This species has been taken in Tennessee only at Reelfoot Lake. Ross (1944) reports that "this species is distributed over all parts of Illinois, but has been taken in large numbers only around the glacial lakes and in the slow streams connecting them". No distribution for the southern U. S. is listed.

*Leptocella pavida* Hagen, 1861

This species is not evident in numbers at Reelfoot. The collection of this form was restricted to Bayou du Chien. Distribution includes all of the eastern states.

*Athripsodes tarsi-punctatus* Vorhies, 1909

Collection of this species was restricted to Bayou du Chien where it was taken in large numbers. Distribution is widespread but with no previous record from Tennessee.

*Athripsodes punctatus* Banks, 1894

This species was numerous on Bayou du Chien where it was collected at night. The male illustrated for this species by Betten (1934) belongs to *A. walo* according to Ross (1944). Records of this species are restricted to Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, and Maine. There is no previous record from Tennessee.

*Athripsodes transversus* Hagen, 1861

This species occurred in great numbers both on Bayou du Chien and in the adjacent Blue Basin. Distribution is widespread throughout the eastern and central states.

*Oecetis ochracea* Curtis, 1825

Collection of this species was limited to a very few individuals. The range is known to include Alaska, Alberta, Manitoba, Minnesota, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

*Oecetis cinerascens* Hagen, 1861

This species is the most common form at Reelfoot Lake, and may be taken night and day with ease. At Reelfoot, this species was almost invariably parasitized by Hydroacarina which clung to the abdomens of the insects in great numbers . . . eighteen were counted on one female. The interested reader may refer to Hoff (1944) for information on the Hydroacarina of Reelfoot Lake. Distribution is widespread.

*Oecetis avara* Banks, 1895

This species is similar to *O. cinerascens* in those points regarding numbers and distribution.

*Oecetis inconspicua* Walker, 1852

This species belies its name for it is rare only in the extreme Northwest. Oddly, records of distribution do not include Tennessee.

*Triaenodes aba* Milne, 1934

This species is abundant at Reelfoot. Range records list Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ontario, and Wisconsin. There are no previous records for Tennessee.

*Triaenodes ignita* Walker, 1852

The larva of this species is unknown. It is relatively common at Reelfoot Lake. The distribution is scattered over the eastern states.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Betten, C. 1934. The Caddis Flies or Trichoptera of New York State. *N. Y. State Bul.* No. 292, Dec.  
 Hoff, Clayton C. 1944. A Preliminary Study of the Hydracarina of Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee. *Report of the Reelfoot Lake Biological Station*, 8: 42-69.  
 Ross, H. H. 1944. The Caddisflies or Trichoptera of Illinois. *Ill. Bul of Nat. Hist. Survey*, Vol. 23, Art. 1.

## NEWS OF TENNESSEE SCIENCE

*Newsworthy items suitable for this column should be addressed to the News Editor, Dr. Carl Tabb Bahner, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee*

New teachers in the University of Tennessee College of Medicine include Dr. I. Frank Tullis, Memphis specialist in internal medicine who has been appointed to succeed the late Dr. Conley Hall Sanford as professor of medicine and Chief of the Division of Medicine, Dr. Alvin J. Cummings, formerly associate in medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, who will serve as assistant professor of medicine, Dr. Rudolf D. von Capeller, from Riehen, Switzerland, who has taught in the University of Basle and will engage in teaching and research on hypertension, Dr. James Brown, who has become instructor in Pharmacology, Dr. Yehia Azia Habib,

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