

NOTE:
FIG 2 IS
UPSIDE DOWN

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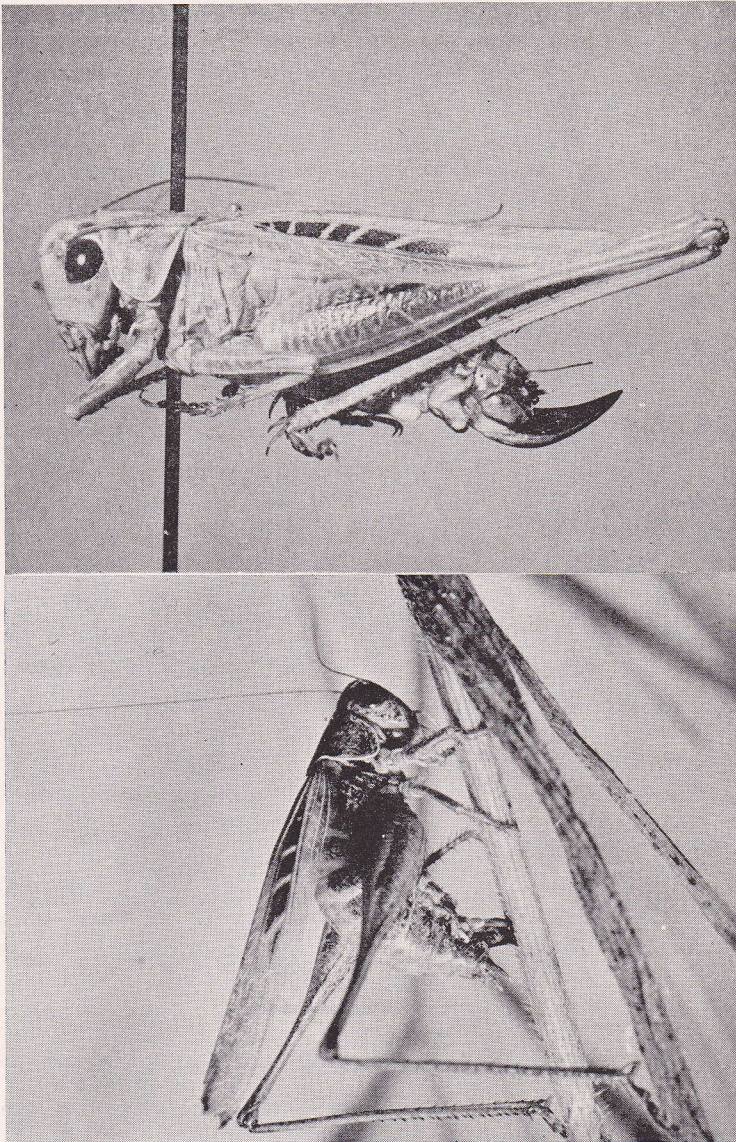
ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF *PLATYCLEIS TESSELLATA*
(CHARPENTIER) IN CALIFORNIA WITH
BIOLOGICAL NOTES
(Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae)

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H. F. Strohecker (1955) first recorded the presence of the Mediterranean *Platycleis tessellata* (Charpentier) in California from a single male specimen collected in 1951. Many records have since become available indicating that the species is established in the state.

Specimens in the collection of the Bureau of Entomology, California State Department of Agriculture, Sacramento, were



EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1. Adult female *Platycleis tessellata* showing blade-like ovipositor and quadrate markings on the tegmen.
- Fig. 2. Female *Platycleis tessellata* ovipositing in grass stem. The female chewed the stem before inserting the ovipositor.

supplied through the courtesy of Mr. George M. Buxton. These and others in my collection are from the following localities:

Amador County: Plymouth, 12-VI-1958, 29-VI-1953, 12-VII-1958. Calaveras County: Mokelumne Hill, 6-VII-1959. El Dorado County: Placerville, 13-VI-1959; Shingle Springs, 7-VI-1960. Nevada County: North San Juan, 2-VII-1960. Placer County: 8 miles Northeast of Lincoln, 3-VII-1953. Sacramento County: Sacramento, 31-V-1959. Tuolumne County: Iceberg Meadows, 9 mi. Northeast of Dardanelle, 6,450 feet elevation, 27-VI-1961; Twain Harte, 29-VI-1961. Yuba County: Beale Air Force Base, 23-IV-1961; Timbuctoo, VIII-1959.

These records indicate that the species is established in the west central Sierra Nevada Mountains to an elevation of 6,450 feet, and in the adjacent portion of the Central Valley. The author has collected the species in grassy areas near Shingle Springs, El Dorado County and it was extremely abundant in a similar habitat near Sacramento. Teneral adults and last instar nymphs were found at the beginning of June at Shingle Springs.

The species is active during the day, but appears to be most active at night. Caged specimens stridulate primarily at night. The stridulation is a very low prolonged "zwick" which is often repeated rapidly. Captive females readily oviposited in dry grass stems. Prior to oviposition the females frequently would chew a part of the stem, probably to facilitate insertion of the short, blade-like ovipositor (Fig. 2). The ovipositor resembles that of the genus *Decticita*, but is more dorsally recurved (Fig. 1). The eggs are quite elongate, uniformly black and are placed in the grass stem in small groups or in linear sequence depending upon the thickness of the stem. This is unusual since most North American Decticinae oviposit directly in the ground. Eggs were taken from a dry stem and were measured by means of an ocular micrometer. Average length was 4.05 mm; all eggs had a median width of 0.65 mm.

Platyceis tessellata seems to be related to the native genus *Decticita* in both morphology and in habits. As an adult the introduced dectacid has long wings with dark brown quadrate markings laterally on the tegmina (Fig. 1).

LITERATURE CITED

STROHECKER, H. F.

1955. A palearctic dectacid captured in California. *Pan-Pacific Ent.*, 31 (4):203.