

Descriptions of New Species and Notes on North American Orthoptera

H. F. Strohecker 1952

University of Miami, Miami (University Branch), Florida

PHASMIDAE

Through the courtesy of Mr. A. D. Barnes, Director of Dade County Parks, I have been permitted to do restricted collecting of insects in Matheson Hammock, a jungle about five miles south of the university. On night excursions I have observed the large walkingstick insect, *Aplopus mayeri* Caudell, in both immature and mature stages. Some were observed feeding on the leaves of black ironwood (*Krugiodendron ferreum*). A female taken *in coitu* measures 160 mm. in length. Caudell described *A. mayeri* from specimens taken on Dry Tortugas and it has been reported from several localities on the keys and from Everglades in Collier County. Hitherto this phasmid has been considered as restricted in its feeding to bay cedar (*Suriana maritima*). Very recently I captured an adult male on buttonwood (*Conocarpus erecta*) growing along a road through a mangrove swamp. No *Suriana* or *Krugiodendron* is to be found within several miles of this spot.

GRYLLIDAE

Soon after moving into a newly-built house in September 1948 I noticed tiny crickets were present. The first of these taken and examined proved to be *Cycloptilum squamosum zebra* Rehn and Hebard, and I assumed without study that several specimens subsequently captured were of the same species. Recently, however, on tracing a feeble song I found the singer to be a cricket evidently different from *zebra*. Examination of it and the small series already collected showed that three males and five females of *Cycloptiloides americanus* had been taken.

C. americanus was described by Saussure as from Cuba, and Rehn and Hebard in 1912 listed additional records, including Vera Cruz, Mexico and San José del Cabo, Lower California, but Hebard did not treat the species in his 1931 synopsis of the Mogoplistini of the United States. The present report is apparently the first record of its occurrence in this country. All the houses in our vicinity were built in 1948 and it thus appears probable that *C. americanus* was already present in the pine woods which was removed prior to building. The records of capture extend from March 1949 to October 1950 and the presence of immature individuals is evidence of reproduction. Evidently the little insect is established and should prosper on the crumbs of animal crackers scattered by my small daughters.