



PREDATION ON THE ALFALFA WEEVIL, *HYPERA POSTICA* (GYLLENHAL), BY *STIRETRUS ANCHORAGO* (F.) (HEMIPTERA: PENTATOMIDAE).—(Note). Previously reported to be a predator of the Mexican bean beetle, *Epilachna varivestis* Mulsant (Howard and Landis, 1936, USDA Circ. 418; Waddill and Shepard, 1974, Fla. Ent. 57:249-53; 1975, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 68:123-7), *Stiretrus anchorago* (F.) will also attack at least one other beetle species under field conditions. From March to April, 1977, an alfalfa field located at Lake Alice, Gainesville, Alachua Co., Fla., was heavily infested with the alfalfa weevil, *Hypera postica* (Gyllenhal). A 2nd nymphal instar of *S. anchorago* collected in the field was feeding on a larva of the alfalfa weevil. Although these insects were collected in a sweepnet, the larva showed evidence of having been fed on for some time. An adult *S. anchorago* was collected in the same field with a green larva (alfalfa weevil?) impaled on its proboscis, but the larva was lost when the stinkbug dropped it into the bottom of the net, where it became mixed with hundreds of weevil larvae.

During 1 month of ca. biweekly collecting in the alfalfa field, 24 adults of *S. anchorago* were collected. During this time no Mexican bean beetles were found in the field, but the coccinellid beetle, *Hippodamia convergens* Guérin, and other related species were abundant. A male and a female of *S. anchorago* failed to eat larvae of *H. convergens* when left with them for 24 hr. In the laboratory, adults of *S. anchorago* accepted larvae both of the alfalfa weevil and of the cabbage looper, *Trichoplusia ni* (Hübner). Nymphs raised in the lab fed readily on larvae of either species and eventually matured. None were raised exclusively on alfalfa weevil larvae because the field was plowed prior to maturation of the nymphs. No eggs were obtained from lab-reared individuals. The species may require Mexican bean beetle larvae during their complete life cycle to develop properly as reproducing adults, but apparently take a more varied prey in the wild than was suspected.

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