

## A NEW HOST RECORD FOR *PSEUDACTEON CRAWFORDI* (DIPTERA: PHORIDAE)

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The biology of the phorid fly *Pseudacteon* was reviewed by Porter (1998). The female fly oviposits into the thorax of its ant host. After hatching, the larva works its way into the host's head capsule where it continues to grow and ultimately decapitates the host. The fully grown larva then uses the head capsule of the host as a pupal case. Because of their parasitic lifestyle, flies of this genus are of great interest as potential biocontrol agents against the imported fire ants, *Solenopsis invicta* Buren and *Solenopsis richteri* Forel, in North America.

Four species of *Solenopsis* fire ants are native to North America: *S. amblychila* Wheeler, *S. aurea* Wheeler, *S. geminata* (Fab.) and *S. xyloni* (MacCook). All four of these species overlap in their ranges in the southwestern United States, mainly in Arizona and Texas (Trager 1991). *Pseudacteon crawfordi* was described by Coquillett in 1907 and is known to be parasitic on *S. geminata* (Disney 1994) and *S. xyloni* (Feener 1987). Here we report that *P. crawfordi* attacks *S. aurea*. *Solenopsis aurea* is a species of fire ant that occurs in xeric conditions in the southwestern United States and is found mainly in Texas and Arizona (Trager 1991).

Collection: Near dusk, on August 3, 1999, a nest of *S. aurea* was excavated. The nest was located close to mile marker 13 north of Portal, Arizona on Speed Road. Foragers from the colony were initially found under a pile of semi-moist cow manure. The nest was located close to a pool of water created by a leaking irrigation line. Shortly after the cow manure was disturbed and the ants were uncovered, six female phorid flies were seen hovering around and attacking inter-

mediate-sized workers. A series of the phorid flies was collected with the ants. *Solenopsis aurea* workers were also collected the next day from 0800-1200 h, but no phorid flies were seen. The phorid flies were identified as *Pseudacteon crawfordi* by Sanford Porter (Medical and Veterinary Entomology Research Laboratory, USDA-ARS, Gainesville, Florida) and the fire ants were identified as *S. aurea* by senior author (JPP). This represents a new host record for *Pseudacteon crawfordi*.

Voucher specimens of both the ants and flies are deposited in the University of Georgia, Collection of Arthropods, Athens, Georgia, USA.

### SUMMARY

*Solenopsis aurea* in Arizona is reported as a new host species for *Pseudacteon crawfordi*.

### REFERENCES CITED

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