

Specimens were seen at Fort St. John. All noted had bright blue hind tibiae, which is common to the prairie specimens. In the interior of British Columbia every shade of red and blue tibiae can be found, some being almost black.

Metrioptera sphagnorum (F. Walker):—This small, brightly coloured Dectid was very abundant in the Peace River country and the males could be heard stridulating amongst the low bushes and weeds on any warm day in August. No females were found. This is the first record of this species for British Columbia. It is plentiful in the Alberta foothills between Banff and Calgary. Specimens were collected at Pouce Coupe, Rolla, and Fort St. John.

Ceuthophilus sp:—A single species of the genus was taken in the Peace River Block. It was found commonly at Pouce Coupe and Rolla under logs and stones, and a large series was secure. Definite determination has not as yet been made.

ON THE EARLY STAGES OF **PLATYPTILIA PUNCTIDACTYLA**

(Pterophoridae-Lepid)

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I am taking the opportunity of this meeting of the British Columbia Entomological Society to answer a kind of challenge of Doctors Barnes and Lindsey in their "Monograph of the Pterophoridae of America, North of Mexico," where it is stated in regard to **Platyptilia pica** and **Platyptilia punctidactyla** that nothing is known of the early stages and that "an interesting and valuable piece of biological work for the entomologists of British Columbia lies in the breeding of these species."

I may mention that it was only in October, 1927 I found these remarks in Barnes' and Lindsey's work.

To hark back a bit, I may explain that for several years past, I had noticed that many of the seed capsules of one of our common spring flowers namely **Dodecatheon pauciflorum**, commonly called the Shooting Star, had small holes eaten into them, one hole in each capsule so attacked, and I always failed to find a caterpillar inside. However, in the spring of 1926 I was fortunate enough to find a larva outside the pod feeding with its head inside. With this guidance as to the habits of the

creature I paid more attention and secured some six or seven larvae and kept them under observation until they pupated.

The following are the notes that I made at the time:—

“19th May, 1926, found seed-heads of **Dodecatheon pauciflorum** with four larvae feeding on the green pods, the larvae outside with their heads inside feeding on the seeds. Shape of larvae; thickest in the middle, tapering considerably anteriorly and posteriorly. Colour: a soft grey green with a longitudinal rose coloured stripe from head to tail along the middle of the dorsal area. Two days later found a seed pod with a pupa attached, secured by the anal hooks and hanging downwards, apparently held in position by the somewhat sticky pubescence of the pod. Length: 8mm. Width: about 1.5 mm. Wing case: very distinct, the wings ending in two marked projections. Head: obliquely blunt.”

There is a curious prolongation of the wing case underneath reaching nearly to the tail and shaped as shown below. (1)



The pupa is capable of bending the body quickly just below the wing covers and when in that position the prolongation of the wing case stands out distinctly. (2)

On further observation I found that the larva feeds also inside the capsule without showing any hole by which they entered.

They vary very much in ground colours, from emerald green to brown and rose, and in one case the dark rose became mottled. The moths emerged in the breeding cage about June 6th, 1926, apparently **P. punctidactyla**.

It is seen by an examination of the insects in the box I have brought that the specimens vary extensively, inter se, but they are mostly from the larvae found about the same time and about the same place. A rather interesting question arises therefore as to whether they represent varieties of one species or whether they can be differentiated into two species as at present accepted, namely **P. punctidactyla** and **P. pica**?

It is my intention this year to collect as many of the larvae as possible and carefully note if they can be separated into two groups.