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SOME R. R. DREISBACH COLLECTING LOCALITIES IN SOUTH-EASTERN TEXAS AND NORTHEASTERN MÉXICO

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During July and August, 1954 the late Robert R. Dreisbach of Midland, Michigan, devoted several weeks to the collection of insects in Texas and México. Dreisbach was an extremely active and indefatigable person. His collecting efforts were not limited to the accumulation of materials of immediate interest to him, and he assembled large numbers of many species of insects. He maintained a general collection and, from time to time, sent portions of it to various specialists for determination. Numerous new species have been described from this material. In identifying the Orthoptera, I noted several discrepancies in the date-locality data accompanying the specimens. Fortunately, I was able to work out and clarify a number of these inaccuracies with Dreisbach before his death in 1964.

Since Dreisbach most generously presented most of his Orthoptera to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, I have intended to publish corrections for those errors known to me. However, the major portion of the remainder of the Dreisbach Collection has been deposited with the Michigan State University Department of Entomology, and I have been informed by Dr. Roland L. Fischer, Curator of the Michigan State University Collections, that he is preparing complete itineraries of Dreisbach's several collecting ventures. A situation has arisen which requires comment on several southeastern Texas and northeastern México localities, and, not wishing to bury the information in a technical report, nor to await Fischer's paper, I am presenting these data here. Items in the left-hand column below represent data taken from Dreisbach specimens; items in the right-hand column indicate my reconstruction of a portion of Dreisbach's July-August 1954 itinerary.

<i>Specimen labelled</i>		<i>Actually came from</i>
Mathias, Texas	July 17, 1954	Mathis, San Patricio Co., Texas
Alice, Texas	July 17, 1954	Alice, Jim Wells Co., Texas
Edinburg, Texas	July 17, 1954	Edinburg, Hidalgo Co., Texas
Rosina, Texas	July 19, 1954	Santa Rosa, Tamaulipas, México (July 18)
Jobali, Texas	July 19, 1954	Jabali, Tamaulipas, México (July 18)
La Mesa, México	July 18, 1954	La Mesa, Nuevo Leon, México
China, México	July 18, 1954	China, Nuevo Leon, México
Gen. Terán, México	July 19, 1954	General Terán, Nuevo Leon, México
Victoria, México	July 19, 1954	Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, México
Llera, México	July 20, 1954	Llera, Tamaulipas, México

In a letter dated March 2, 1955, Dreisbach wrote me that . . .

Saturday, July 17th we spent in Texas, just about on the border. The 18th of July we collected in Texas until noon. We crossed the border at noon at Reynoso (*sic!*), went down to China, and then cut across south-

west and hit the main route to Mexico City at Montmorles (*sic!*). La Mesa should be in Mexico between Montmorles and Victoria. Jobali (*sic!*) should be in Mexico between Montmorles and Victoria. Of course "Xilitia" should be "Xilitla".

On July 18th I left for home . . . I got back to Mexico Saturday, August 7th . . .

There are discrepancies in the above data and in the information Dreisbach sent to me. According to the date, and to Dreisbach, Jabali should be south of Montemorelos. The only appropriate Jabali I can locate in this part of México is a small village on the Reynosa-China Highway just east of the Tamaulipas-Nuevo Leon State Line. This leads me to believe that the date for Jabali should be July 18th and not July 19th. If this is true, the date for "Rosina, Texas" should also be the 18th, and this would place the locality in southern Texas or in México somewhere north and east of General Terán. I am unable to locate a "Rosina" in either of these areas. If the name is a lapsus for "Rosita," the only possible locality is near Rio Grande City, Texas. According to Dreisbach's itinerary, given above, this would be off his route. Dreisbach has informed me that "Rosina" actually is "Santa Rosa." There is a Santa Rosa on the Reynosa-China Highway about 15 miles southwest of Reynosa. It seems reasonable to conclude that "Rosina, Texas" should read "Santa Rosa, Tamaulipas, México" and that the date was July 18th and not the 19th.

On this trip Dreisbach was accompanied by Dr. Charles D. Michener and Dr. Paul Ehrlich. Michener (*in litt.*) informs me that Dreisbach was with the group ". . . all the way to Xilitla . . . [and] . . . in and around Xilitla for a day or so . . ." Ehrlich notes (*in litt.*) that ". . . he was with us at Xilitla and left from there." There are numerous Dreisbach specimens of Orthoptera in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology Collections which are labelled Antigua Morelos (July 20), Nuevo Morelos (July 21), or Xilitia [*sic!*] (July 23). Dr. George Byers, Curator of the Snow Entomological Collections, the University of Kansas, has indicated to me (*in litt.*) that specimens collected north-east of China, Nuevo Leon, by Ehrlich are dated July 18 and specimens taken southwest of China by Ehrlich bear the date July 19. He also reports numerous specimens from near Xilitla labelled July 21, 23 and 24. Dreisbach evidently progressed continuously southward from Texas to Xilitla without retracing any of the route, as some of his dates might indicate. Also, he returned to his home from Xilitla no earlier than July 23rd.

Dreisbach spelled phonetically the names of the Mexican localities where he collected. I have seen specimens from the same place, each bearing a label with one of three different spellings--all incorrect. Although Bob Dreisbach was a magnificent person and an astounding collector, he can hardly be called a perfectionist when it came to curating his specimens. These examples show that great caution should be exercised in accepting his date-locality data at face value.