

December 1991

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Recommended Citation

McPherson, J. E. 1991. "Range Extensions of Three Emesine Species in North America (Heteroptera: Reduviidae)," *The Great Lakes Entomologist*, vol 24 (4)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22543/0090-0222.1759>

Available at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/tgle/vol24/iss4/8>

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**RANGE EXTENSIONS OF THREE EMESINE SPECIES
IN NORTH AMERICA
(HETEROPTERA:REDUVIIDAE)**

J. E. McPherson¹

ABSTRACT

The first records of *Empicoris orthoneuron* from Michigan, and *E. winnemana* and *Ploiaria hirticornis* from Missouri are reported. Those for *E. orthoneuron* and *P. hirticornis* represent considerable extensions of their recorded ranges.

Recently (1991) I reported rather dramatic range extensions for three species of emesine reduviids, i.e., *Empicoris culiciformis* (De Geer) and *E. winnemana* McAtee and Malloch from Michigan and *Pseudometapterus umbrosus* (Blatchley) from Illinois. These records showed that these species were more widespread than previously thought. Although it is possible that these emesines are expanding their ranges, it seems more likely that they have been overlooked by earlier investigators because of their secretive habits, sticklike bodies, and small size (*P. umbrosus* averages about 15 mm long; all *Empicoris* species average less than 8 mm).

Subsequent to that study, I received an additional six adults from the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) representing three species, only one of which (*E. winnemana*) was reported in my earlier paper. Herein, *Empicoris orthoneuron* McAtee and Malloch is reported from Michigan, and *E. winnemana* and *Ploiaria hirticornis* (Banks) are reported from Missouri; all are less than 7 mm long.

Empicoris orthoneuron McAtee

This species has been reported from Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, California, Oregon, and British Columbia; and from Mexico to Argentina (Froeschner 1988). It has been collected from flood debris, Spanish moss, and under dead leaves (Elkins 1951); and from a light trap, bird's nest, and spider web (Wygodzinsky 1966, label information); and on imported orchids from Port Barrios, Guatemala (McAtee and Malloch 1925, label information). Its discovery in Michigan, as with *E. culiciformis* (McPherson 1991), strongly suggests it is more widely distributed in North America than previously thought.

Deposited in the UMMZ are two specimens with the following label information:

MI: Cheboygan Co., 2 July 19739 (1♂), A. E. Cordell (Coll.; previously identified by J. D. Lattin in 1950 under synonym of *E. reticulatus* McAtee and Malloch); Cheboygan Co., Univ. Mich. Biol. Sta., 28 June 1960 (1♂), R. E. Beer (Coll.).

Empicoris winnemana McAtee & Malloch

As noted above, I reported the occurrence of this species from Michigan (1991). It had been previously reported only from Connecticut, Maryland, and Virginia (Froeschner 1988).

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Deposited in the Southern Illinois University Entomology Collection (SIUEC), donated by the UMMZ, is an adult with the following label information:

MO: Shannon Co., T30 R 4W Sec. 6, Shannondale Glade, 15-16 July 1990 (1♂), Malaise Tr., M. Arduser (Coll.).

Ploiaria hirticornis (Banks)

This species has been collected from Washington, D. C., North Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana (Froeschner 1988). It has been found beneath a board on the site of an old house, beaten from dead leaves of cabbage palmetto, and sifted from roots of tufts of grass (Blatchley 1926). Its presence in Missouri is a remarkable find. Not only does it greatly extend its known range into the midwest, but it is the first time the tribe (Leistarchini) has been reported from this part of the country. As I noted in my earlier report of emesine species, I suspect that this insect has not recently extended its range but simply has been overlooked.

Deposited in the UMMZ and SIUEC are three specimens of *P. hirticornis* with the following label information:

MO: Shannon Co., T30N R 4W Sec. 6, Shannondale Glade, 17-18 July 1990 (1♂, UMMZ; 1♂, SIUEC [donated by the UMMZ]), Malaise Tr., M. Arduser (Coll.); same label information other than date, 19-21 July 1990 (1♂, UMMZ).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank M. F. O'Brien, Insect Division, UMMZ, for permission to examine the emesine specimens and for donating two to the SIUEC. I am also grateful to R. C. Froeschner, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D. C., for confirming my identification of *P. hirticornis*.

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