Pterocomma salicis (L.).

Under this species Wilson discusses the forms determined as salicis L. in this country. He concludes that the species does not occur here, and considers the cornicle the distinguishing character. While the cornicles figured by him are very distinct, the writer has examined both American and European specimens in which the cornicles are almost identical. They are not only the same in shape, but the measurements are the same, and a range in variation between the two types is met with in European material. It is not probable that two European species are confused since the variation was seen in aphides collected from one colony in France. Another point of resemblance is the bright orange colour of the cornicles in both European and American forms. It is true that the cornicles of American forms seldom show the distinct bulging met with in salicis, but with the variation in the European form, and with the two forms showing the same measurements, it seems hardly possible to separate them on this character of the cornicles. Both European and American forms, moreover, show a more or less distinct dusky bordering to the wing veins.

In an attempt to find some other character to back up the variation in the European cornicle and so to separate the American form, the writer has measured a large series of apterous forms. These have shown no differences. The European form shows more variation in the antennal segments, the third segment particularly being sometimes longer in the European than in the American form. In others, however, they are exactly the same, and this is more often the case than otherwise. This variation in the antennal segments does not seem to be, therefore, any definite character upon which the two species can be separated with certainty. In the meantime, therefore, the writer prefers to hold salicis for the American forms.

Measurements of the alate viviparous female of both American and European specimens will show their remarkable similarity in this respect.

European: Antennæ III, 0.72 mm.; IV, 0.464 mm.; V, 0.432 mm.; VI, (0.224 mm.+0.224 mm.); cornicle, 0.56 mm.; hind tarsus, 0.256 mm.