

NEW PARASITES OF THE GENUS MERAPORUS.

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In a small quantity of seed wheat obtained from the storehouse of a grain dealer at Plano, Texas, in July, 1907, two dead bodies of a Chalcid fly were found, together with a few specimens of the common grain weevil, *Calandra oryzae* L. These parasites were found to agree closely, but still doubtfully, with *Meraporus calandrae*, described as a *Pteromalus* by Dr. L. O. Howard in the Annual Report of the (U. S.) Commissioner of Agriculture for 1880, p. 273. On submitting the specimens to Mr. J. C. Crawford, at the U. S. National Museum, he reported that they belonged to the genus *Meraporus*, though the species was not *calandrae*. My parasite thus appeared to be undescribed, and it was consequently cited as a new species by Mr. W. D. Pierce in his paper entitled, "A List of Parasites Known to Attack American Rhyncophora" (Jr. Econ. Ent., I, Dec., 1908, p. 384).

The species is herewith described; type and paratype as mentioned are deposited in the U. S. National Museum.

Meraporus utilis, n. sp.

Female: Length, 1.5 mm.; head, thorax and abdomen steely black, clothed with extremely fine and sparse silvery pubescence, except on base of abdomen, and minute black bristles on occiput and dorsum of thorax; reticulately punctured on head, confusedly so on thorax; abdomen smooth-shining, venter strongly keel-shaped. Head transverse, wider than thorax, front slightly depressed medially for reception of antennal scapes, below with convergent striæ at oral margin; antennæ about as long as thorax, dull reddish, pedicel and flagellum, excepting first and second ring-joints, darkened above; ring-joints together about two-thirds the length of pedicel, first and second ring-joints small, but combined equal to length of third, which is slightly smaller than first funicular joint, the latter a little longer than wide, second to fifth funicular joints quadrate; club with widest expansion at juncture of first and second joints, tapering to a conical point with third joint. Ocelli arranged in a curve.

Thorax a little longer than wide, parapsidal furrows indistinct; metathorax punctured as on dorsum, tricarinate, the median carina short, the lateral ones sinuate and extending to posterior corner of the short metathoracic neck; lateral folds indicated by basal foveolæ only, spiracles very small, broadly oval; spiracular sulci very deep and distinct,

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