

THE IDENTITY OF THE BETTER KNOWN
MIDGE GALLS.

BY E. P. FELT, ALBANY, N.Y.

Recent studies in this group have shown that the old generic reference to *Cecidomyia* has very little significance, since this name has been used by various authors in such a way as to apply to almost any one of 800 or possibly 1,000 species or more occurring in this country. This is certainly not a precise definition, and in view of the fact that species which have been reared and referred to genera are constantly being mentioned in literature as species of *Cecidomyia*, we believe that the following list of some of the earlier named species of gall midges, giving the correct generic reference, will be of material service in advancing stability in nomenclature. These changes, though perhaps distasteful to some, are inevitable, since the majority of American genera at least, represent distinct lines of specialization correlated in large measure with variations in food habits.

TRIBE LASIOPTERARIAE.

Midges referable to this group are usually easily recognized by the thickly scaled costa, subcosta and third vein, the last usually lying near the anterior margin of the wing and uniting therewith some distance before the apex; claws almost invariably unidentate. Many of these midges are dark brown, ornamented with silvery-white markings and live for the most part in more or less irregular, subcortical galls on the stems of both herbaceous and woody plants.

LASIOPTERA Meign.

Usually brown, white marked species with 16 to 33 sessile antennal segments; palpi quadriarticulate, the 5th vein forked. Mostly inhabitants of subcortical tissues.

Lasioptera vernoniae Beutm. Gall a floral, petiole or midrib deformity on ironweed. On the last two it is about 6 mm. long and oval.

L. vitis O.S. The gall is an irregular, frequently lobulated, succulent enlargement on the leaf stalk, portions of the leaf, particularly near the base, or even the tendrils of grape. It may be two or three inches long and is inhabited by several other species.

L. clavula Beutm. The gall is irregularly clavate, about $\frac{1}{2}$ to an inch long, on the tips of *Cornus* twigs. Within there is