

ON *LEDRA PERDITA*, A. & S.

BY CARL F. BAKER, AUBURN, ALABAMA.

On page 577 of their great work on the Hemiptera, Amyot and Serville describe two species of *Ledra*. One, *L. aurita*, the well-known species of Europe, was characterized from specimens collected near Paris. I have specimens of it now before me. Its size, the broad membranous prolongation of the head, the ear-shaped horns on the thorax, together with other details of structure, separate it widely from any other homopterous insect. The other species described, *L. perdita*, though equally unique in form, was characterized under circumstances which, for such eminent scientists as Amyot and Serville, seem extraordinary. After a three-line description, they remark: "L'exemplaire unique d'après lequel cette espèce a été figurée, ayant été détruit, nous la décrivons d'après la figure." Unfortunately, the figure, number five on plate II., is very poor. The species is credited to "Amérique septentrionale."

Since that time the species has never again been recognized, although often noticed in hemipterological literature. Mr. Van Duzee, in his "Catalogue of the Jassoidea," lists it as an unquestionable *Ledra*, and gives its habitat as Pennsylvania, on the authority of Amyot and Serville.

It is perfectly evident from the figure that the species is not a *Ledra*. It lacks utterly the characteristic head structure of *Ledra aurita*. It is equally evident that the figure is that of a Membracid belonging in the Centrolinae, near *Microcentrus caryae*, Fh. Indeed, Dr. Goding tells me Fitch himself noticed this resemblance.

During several years past I have been receiving quantities of material in Homoptera from many localities in Pennsylvania and throughout the East. This material is the result of careful work by good collectors, and contains immense series of the native Membracids and Jassids. In the examination of this material I have been constantly on the watch for *Ledra perdita*. Lately it has occurred to me in several specimens from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Indiana, collected by Messrs. Dietz, Liebeck, and Weith. There is nothing else among all the American material I have examined that is at all like this species, with the single exception of *Microcentrus caryae*, and that lacks the long ear-shaped horns on the thorax. So peculiar in form is it that there is not a possibility of confusing it with anything else in our fauna.