

## PODISMA FRIGIDA BOH. IN ALASKA.

BY A. N. CAUDELL, BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY,  
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Among a number of miscellaneous insects recently received by the United States National Museum from the International Boundary Survey were two species of Acrididae collected by J. M. Jessup in the extreme northeastern part of Alaska. The labels on these specimens read as follows: "International Boundary, Alaska, J. M. Jessup. Lat. 69° 20 N., Long. 141° W. 8-VIII-12." Of the two species of Orthoptera received there were fifteen specimens, one male and three female specimens of *Gomphocerus clavatus* Thom. and five male and six female specimens of a short winged grasshopper, which is determined as *Podisma frigida* Boh. While this record of *P. frigida* from Alaska is of interest, being the first reported occurrence of this European species in the New World, it is in no way remarkable, being but an eastward extension of the known distribution.

*Podisma frigida* was described from Norway, and has been reported from various points in northern Europe and Asia and from the mountains of Switzerland. Material of both sexes from Norway and Switzerland is in the National Museum collection, having been received from Saussure, who was quite surely responsible for the determination. Noticeable variation exists in this material from these two regions, but direct comparison of the Alaskan material with the specimens from Norway shows scarcely any taxonomic divergence. As the Alaskan specimens exhibit no tangible structural differences from material from Norway, the typical region of *frigida*, it has seemed wise to determine them as that species.

Of the known North American species of *Podisma*, the *nubicola* of Scudder is the most nearly allied to *frigida*. Here, however, as usual throughout the Melanopli, the genital structures of the male furnish excellent diagnostic characters. Thus in *frigida* the subgenital plate of the male is apically conical and noticeably elevated above the lateral margins and the cerci are about three times as long as the median width, while in *nubicola* the subgenital plate is more truncate apically and barely elevated above the lateral margins and the cerci are not, or barely, more than twice as long as the median width.

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