

strongly inwardly oblique to inner margin, parallel to direction of t. a., but not so much curved. Inner edge rigid, cleanly marked, outer shading gradually into ground colour. The s. t. line is only marked by a very slight difference in shade between terminal and subterminal spaces, the latter being slightly darker next the line. Fringe concolorous, slightly paler at base. No trace of ordinary spots. Secondaries fuscous, darker outwardly. Mesial band and discal dot evident, but very faint. Female as male, only hind wings somewhat darker. Beneath, fore wings fuscous, with extremely faint, if any, trace of mesial band and discal dot; hind wings paler, with band and dot only a trifle better defined.

None of the specimens before me are perfectly fresh, and it is probable that when better material is available there will be additional features of maculation to be added to the above description. For instance, a few white scales here and a few black ones there lead me to think that in fresh specimens there would be a marginal row of dark points preceded by white ones.

Types: ♂ and ♀, Kerrville, Texas. From Mr. Lacey.

(To be continued.)

THE SO-CALLED HUMAN FLEA, *PULEX IRRITANS*, INFESTING THE OPOSSUM, *DIDELPHIS VIRGINIANA*.

BY F. M. WEBSTER, URBANA, ILL.

While engaged in studying the still enigmatical insect, *Platyptilla castoris*, along Devil's River, Texas, in the spring of 1891, an opossum was treed by the dogs one evening, and shot. The following morning I found the animal, which was a female, and, though herself dead, the young were still alive and in the pouch of the mother. While examining these I observed that the pouch also contained numbers of fleas. Specimens were captured and sent to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, I being at the time employed by the Division of Entomology. It is these specimens, I presume, that were described by Mr. Baker, in CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, Vol. XXVII, p. 67, as *Pulex simulans*. In Proceedings U. S. National Museum, Vol. XXVII, p. 379, Mr. Baker states that the occurrence of this flea, which he here considers a variety of *P. irritans*, is to be looked upon as accidental. This latter statement may, perhaps, be true, but it is well enough to place the circumstances surrounding the capture of the type specimens, and to call attention to the fact that the section of Devil's River where they were taken is not by any means a thickly settled one. While I know, from personal experience at the time, that not all of the fleas were infesting the opossums, their abundance on the individual from which they were taken, and the nature of the country inhabited by her, would lead me to look rather confidently for their recurrence on others of these animals, especially where opossums are, if anything, thicker than humans, and fleas *ad infinitum*.