

PIEZODORUS GUILDINII (HEMIPTERA:
PENTATOMIDAE): AN UNUSUAL HOST OF THE
TACHINID *TRICHOPODA PENNIPES*

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Larvae of tachinid flies are the most common insect parasitoids of phytophagous pentatomids found in soybean agroecosystems. The tachinid *Trichopoda pennipes* (F.) is commonly found in North America, and is generally associated with populations of the southern green stink bug *Nezara viridula* (L.). Certain other species of Pentatomidae, as well as species of Alydidae, Coreidae, Largidae, and Scutelleridae are also reported as hosts of *T. pennipes* (Arnaud 1978, Buschman and Whitcomb 1980).

During November 1983, more than 300 fifth instar nymphs of the small green stink bug, *Piezodorus guildinii* (Westwood) were collected on hairy indigo, *Indigofera hirsuta* L. (Leguminosae), near a mature soybean field in Alachua County, northcentral Florida. Nymphs were reared in the laboratory ($25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, $70 \pm 10\%$ RH and 14h L : 10h D photoperiod) on *I. hirsuta* pods. On the day of adult emergence, male/female pairs were established in rearing jars and fed pods of various legumes. Twelve days after adult emergence, a parasitoid larva exited from the posterior end of a *P. guildinii* male. The larva pupated on the same day and the host died after two days. Ten days after pupation, an adult *T. pennipes* emerged. The adult was smaller in size than usual, probably due to the smaller size of *P. guildinii* compared with other hosts (*P. guildinii* males reared on green beans *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. weigh an average of 45.6 mg fresh weight compared with 115.9 mg for *N. viridula* males reared on the same food, Panizzi and Slansky 1985 and unpublished data).

The parasitized fifth instar nymph molted into a normal appearing adult. However, it gradually developed an abnormal coloration (yellowish, as in very old adults (Galileo et al. 1977), instead of pale green), and was less mobile than unparasitized adults. Also, the day before appearance of the parasitoid larva, the stink bug host had its genitalia abnormally extruded.

Out of 40 adult hosts, Buschman and Whitcomb (1980) first recorded a single instance of *T. pennipes* parasitizing *P. guildinii* in Florida. Our data indicate that this parasitism has remained rare since its discovery, despite the apparent increasing numbers of *P. guildinii* in soybean fields in Florida (Menezes 1981). A similar situation of rare parasitization of *P. guildinii* by a tachinid (*Eutrichopodopsis nitens* Blanchard) has been reported in Brazil (Panizzi and Smith 1976). These situations apparently represent ovipositional "mistakes" by the adult tachinids; *P. guildinii* occurs in conjunction with *N. viridula*, particularly in soybean fields, and

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the latter is a preferred host of both tachinid species. We thank Dr. N. E. Woodley, Research Entomologist, Systematic Entomology Laboratory—USDA, Beltsville, Maryland for the identification of the adult tachinid, and Drs. D. H. Habeck and R. I. Sailer for reviewing an early draft of this note. Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Journal Series No. 5559.

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PARASITOIDS OF GRASSLOOPER PREPUPAE AND
PUPAE IN SOUTH FLORIDA SUGARCANE

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Grassloopers, *Mocis* spp. (Lepidoptera:Noctuidae), are sporadic pests of sugarcane in south Florida and occasionally cause extensive defoliation (see Strayer 1975). Population levels of grassloopers commonly buildup in cane during mid to late summer but usually diminish in September. During August, 1983, grasslooper prepupae and pupae were collected from ten different sugarcane fields in Palm Beach County. The loopers were held in large petri dishes under room conditions in the laboratory. A sample of larvae and adults reared in the laboratory were identified as the striped grasslooper, *Mocis latipes* (Guenée).

Six parasitoid species of the striped grasslooper were identified from specimens recovered in the lab. The most common parasitoid was *Sarcodexia sternodontis* Townsend (Diptera:Sarcophagidae). This parasitoid was recovered mainly from prepupae but also from pupae. *Sarcodexia sternodontis* has been reported to parasitize grassloopers in the Gainesville area (Ogunwolu and Habeck 1975). A parasitoid *Chetogena* sp. (Diptera:Tachinidae)