September 1995

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Two new species of *Euxesta* Loew (Diptera; Otitidae)

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Abstract: Two new species of the genus *Euxesta* Loew are described and illustrated: *E. pacifica* from California and *E. atlantica* from Florida, in the *Quaternaria* subgroup of the *Notata* group. A key is presented to the two new species, as well as *E. calligyna* (Bigot 1857), *E. quaternaria* Loew (1868), *E. luteocesta* Foote (1960), and *E. nigricans* Wulp (1903) of the *quaternaria* subgroup.

Key Words: *atlantica*, *Euxesta*, fasciae, *notata*, *Otitidae*, *pacifica*, *quaternaria*, *syntergite*.

Introduction

The genus *Euxesta* Loew includes about 90 described species and many still awaiting description. *Euxesta* species are restricted to the Americas, except for a few that have become more widely distributed by accidental introduction. The biology of the genus is very poorly known, although there is some evidence that many species are saprophytic and that a few may be primary invaders of living plant tissues. The latest key to the genus is by Curran (1935), and the latest revision is by Hendel (1909). The present work is preliminary to a more extensive one.

The two new species described at this time belong to a group of the genus *Euxesta* which I (George Steyskal) am recognizing in the more extensive work now in progress as the *Quaternaria* Subgroup of the *Notata* Group. This subgroup is easily recognized by the presence of 4 dark spots or fasciae on otherwise hyaline wings. The subgroup includes: *E. atlantica* n. sp., *E. calligyna* (Bigot), *E. quaternaria* Loew, *E. luteocesta* Foote, *E. nigricans* Wulp, and *E. pacifica* n. sp. The Mexican species, *E. nigricans* Wulp, is known from only a single male (genitalic details unknown, nor is anything known concerning the biology of the species).

Key to Species of *Euxesta* (Subgroup *Quaternaria*).

1(2). Last preabdominal tergite of female yellow, remainder of abdomen dark, male abdomen wholly dark; 3rd wing spot (costad of *r-m*) not extending posteriorly of vein *R*.

3(4). Wing with 3rd band cuneate, usually ending in a point a little before vein *M*; 3rd antennal segment roundish; mesonotum behind suture with each lateral 1/3 bronzy or purplish, especially in female; base of abdomen blackish in both sexes, abdomen of male wholly black dorsally, of female with large segment usually yellow with blackish anterior corners, 3rd and narrow last preabdominal tergite wholly yellow (Cuba) ........................................ *E. quaternaria* Loew

4(3). 3rd wing band covering at least part of *dm-cu*, base of abdomen yellowish, at least medially.

5(6). 3rd antennal segment about 1.5 times as long as wide; 3rd wing band bent basad medially; lateral mesonotum with bronzy or purplish coloring
Head with frons brown, parallel-sided, dull. 0.25 of total head width, with scattered short, black setae and narrow, white-tomentose ocular margins; face, clypeus, genae, and subgenae gray to brownish; clypeus narrowly shining along lower edge and a little reddish medially; genal-subgenal suture with narrow shining black stripe about 2/3 of distance from lower orbit to oral margin; combined height of genae and subgenae 0.14 height of eye; antennae 0.36 as long as eye-height; 3rd antennal segment elliptical. 1.33 times as long as wide; palpi brown, spatulate, with narrow dark brown stems.

Thorax without obvious pattern of microtomentum or coloration; small postlateral areas adjacent to scutellum colored as scutellum. Legs black, only extreme tip of forefemur and approximately basal 2/3 of all basitarsi reddish brown; wing as in Fig. 1; 2nd band from base extending into discal cell, but becoming faint posteriorly; 3rd band fading out at about midlength of dm-cu (posterior crossvein); apical spot extending basad approximately halfway from tip of R₂ from 3rd band and apicad almost to tip of cell. Vems brown where traversing brown markings, white elsewhere. Halter with club white, stem yellowish. Squamae white.

Abdomen as in Fig. 2; syntergite 1-2 black, with yellow anterior area set off by distinct carina; tergite 3 in dorsal view yellow, except blackish anterior corners; ovipositor sheath elongate-cordate, with truncate tip; sheath and ovipositor when fully extended 4.94 mm long, sheath a little longer than tergite 5 (Figs. 2 and 3); tip of ovipositor and spermatheca at high magnification as in Figs. 6 and 4 respectively. Sternites, especially apical ones, blackish.

**Diagnosis.** As noted in the foregoing key and comments, *E. pacifica* is most similar to *E. nigricans* Wulp, from Guerrero, Mexico, and to the new species, *E. atlantica*. *E. pacifica* differs from *E. nigricans* in the following characters: (1) second band extending well into discal cell, not so with *E. nigricans*. *E. pacifica* without anterior margin of large yellow syntergite narrowly darkened and angularly emarginate as in *E. atlantica*. *E. pacifica* male basal syntergite usually with yellow coloration mesally, *E. nigricans* male abdomen wholly black.

**Female.** Length of wing 3.6 mm. Body and legs black, with slight purplish or greenish metallic sheen, especially on sides of thorax and dorsum of scutellum, and with thin pale grayish microomentum.

**Male.** Length of wing 3.2 mm. Wing pattern similar to that of female, but sometimes with faint more extended expansion. Abdomen shining black, syntergite 1-2 with ill-defined median yellowish area, sometimes rather broadly divided by darker median area. Terminalia as in Fig. 5; surstyli rather asymmetrical; cerci truncate apically, gently biemarginate, and with pair of short sharp spinules; aedeagus very long, slender, coiled.

**Distribution.** California.

**Host.** *Washingtonia filifera* (desert fan palm). *Euxesta pacifica* specimens were reared from hollow *W. filifera*, suggesting that the species is saprophagous.

Etymology. The name of the species is derived from the fact that the type series is restricted to xeric areas of California, which are located on the Pacific coast of the continental United States.

Euxesta atlantica Ahlmark.
new species (Fig. 7-12)

Diagnosis. Euxesta atlantica most closely resembles E. pacifica and E. nigricans. Euxesta atlantica female similar to E. pacifica female with 2nd dark wing-band extending from costal vein well into discal cell in both cases; not the case with E. nigricans [fide Van der Wulp 1903] female. Femora and tibiae mostly yellow in E. atlantica and mostly black in E. pacifica and E. nigricans. Basal two syntergites in E. atlantica female large and mostly yellow with apical margins dark, second basal syntergite angularly emarginate, characteristics unique to E. atlantica.

Female. Head (Fig. 8) yellow-brown, eyes beige, frons sienna brown, region in the immediate vicinity of ocelli metallic blue-green and area of frons marginal to eyes adjacent to ocelli metallic blue-green. Frons with surface texture flat, not shiny, and apparently microtomentose. Face not short; palpus yellow; clypeus yellow. Antennae predominately yellow; third segment in basal half yellow, apical half brown, oblate in profile, mildly compressed laterocentrally. Third segment (profile view) length 0.266, width 0.178. Arista black except yellow basal end; length 0.78 mm.

Thorax mostly metallic dark blue-green, surface shiny, apparently with sparse microtomentum. Dark metallic brown pattern evident on thorax, near ends of scutocutellar suture extending in ensiform fashion directly over dorsocentral setae and terminating well before reaching transverse suture.

Abdomen (Fig. 9) shiny, nonmetallic, not tomentose, with two large primarily yellow segments dorsally. Basal syntergite with apical parallel-sided dark brown crossband; second tergite with posterior margin very narrowly darkened and angularly emarginate dorsocentrally at about 125 degrees; abdominal venter yellow. Ovipositor as in Figure 7.

Legs yellow overall; fore- and hindtibiae darkened apically; tarsi pale yellow.

Wing length 3.62 - 3.86 mm. Wings (Fig. 10) microtomentose with four dark bands extending posteriorly from costal vein. First band at base of wing extending posteriorly to anterior border of alula and partially bordered on basal side by MA. Second band extending posteriorly through cell CuA1 to A1+CuA2; not closely bounded on basal side by bm-cu and CuA1; closely bounded on costal vein by intersection of costal vein and R1. Not closely bounded by r-m on apical side. Third band extending posteriorly from costal vein to wing edge with dm-cu in center of band; basal and apical sides of band approximately 1/2 length of dm-cu from dm-cu. Fourth band at apex of wing connected with third band by narrow strip along costal vein in cell r1 extending posteriorly nearly to M; band curving slightly anteriorly to a costal vein location between M and R45, which is closer to R45 than M by one third the distance between the two.

Male. Noticeably smaller than female as evidenced by the differences in wing lengths. Head same as female. Thorax same as female except no metallic dark brown pattern evident. Abdomen shiny non-
metallic, very little tomentum present. First two basal tergites yellow, third and fourth tergites dark brown; ventral side yellow except toward the terminalia end. Terminalia as shown in figure 11. Wing (Fig. 12) length 2.6-2.9mm. Wing pattern similar to female, however second band not extending to A<sub>1</sub> + CuA<sub>2</sub> quite as clearly as in female. Third band barely extending to border if at all. Apical band not attaining the juncture of C and R<sub>4+5</sub> and extending only halfway through cell r<sub>4+5</sub>.

**Biological note.** One male recovered for study was infested with phoretic acari (*Uropodidae*), genus and species undetermined. The mites exhibited anal pedicels by which they attached themselves to the thorax and abdomen of the fly. As most non-myrmecophilous or non-termitophilous *Uropodidae* are saprophagous or mycetophagous (Krantz 1970), their close association with *E. atlantica* suggests that the fly may be found commonly in detritus.

**Distribution.** Florida.

**Host.** Unknown.


**Etymology.** The name of *E. atlantica* is suggested by the current indications that the species is apparently precincive to the United States East coast providing a counterpart to the related *E. pacifica*, which is apparently precincive to the United States West coast.

**Acknowledgements**

We are indebted to Gary Steck of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, for his very helpful advice and general assistance, and to Allen Norrbom at the United States National Museum for his assistance in procuring specimens and his general advice. Thanks also go to acarologist Calvin Welbourn of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, for confirmation of a mite identification to family level. We are grateful to Kenneth W. Cooper and Jack Hall, of the University of California (Riverside), for making the material of *E. pacifica* available and to Howard V. Wecms, Jr. (retired), Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, as well as to D. Derbonne and particularly to Gloria Virgona for her ambitious efforts in collecting *E. atlantica*.

**References**


