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A NEW SPECIES OF *MALLOPHORA* FROM THE GREAT SALT LAKE DESERT (DIPTERA: ASILIDAE)¹

D. Elmer Johnson²

During the course of an ecological study of the southern extension of the Great Salt Lake Desert of Utah, a number of apparently undescribed species of insects have come to light. One of these, a fly of the family Asilidae, is described below.

Mallophora (Mallophorina) pallida, n. sp.

Male: Head silvery gray pollinose, somewhat less densely so on the upper front. Pile of lower side of first and all of second antennal segments black, rest of hair of head white. First and third antennal segments black, second segment brown. Antennal style two-thirds as long as third segment. Palpi red.

Thorax silvery white pollinose, that on upper part of sternopleura, mesopleura, and mesonotum very pale stramineous, rest of vestiture of thorax white.

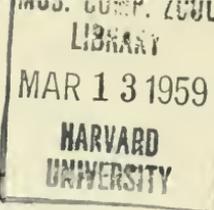
Coxae black, silvery white pollinose, white haired. Trochanters shining black, narrowly red basally and apically, hairs white. Femora shining black, narrowly red basally and apically, the fore and middle pairs also red ventrally; the heavy spines mostly black, rest of hair white. Tibiae reddish yellow, a pre-apical spot of black on front of fore tibiae. Most of the apical bristles on all pairs, and pile on outer distal third of hind pair black, pale golden yellow pile on inner side of first and reddish golden pile on outer side of hind tibiae; rest of vestiture white. Tarsi red, mixed black and white hairs on fore, black on middle, and mixed black and golden on hind pairs.

Wings very pale brownish hyaline, somewhat darker anteriorly, a few white hairs along base of costa; veins light brown basally, darker distally. First posterior cell open at the wing margin by about two-fifths the distance across the widest part of the cell. Stem of halteres pale brown, knob pale lemon yellow.

Abdomen black in ground-color, hind margins of tergites five, six, and seven narrowly pale; cinereous pollinose posterior border relatively broader on each successive segment after the second; sides and venter completely pollinose. Pile of first segment snowy

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white, of dorsum of rest of abdomen very pale stramineous, of sides and venter nearly white. Genitalia mostly reddish yellow, white haired.

Female: Much like the male. Second antennal segment black. Pile of mesonotum and dorsum of abdomen nearly white. Nearly all spines of middle and fore femora are white. Eighth tergite is black dorsally and apically. The females are usually somewhat larger than the males.

Specimens of both sexes range from 8-11 mm. in length.

Types: Male *holotype* and female *allotype*: West side of Little Granite Mountain, Tooele County, Utah, August 21, 1955 (D. E. Johnson). *Paratypes*: Millard County: 6♂6♀ 9 miles east of Delta, August 4-19 (D. E. Johnson). Tooele County: 3♂6♀ same locality as types, August 19-September 1 (D. E. Johnson); 5♂7♀ south-east end Cedar Mountains, July 23-August 21 (P. D. Ashlock, R. Holliman, D. E. Johnson); 2♀ Cane Springs, Cedar Mountains, August 10 (D. E. Johnson). The holotype, allotype and some paratypes are in the collection of the writer, other paratypes are in The collections of the U.S. National Museum, Brigham Young University and the University of Utah.

Except for size there seems to be very little variation in the group of specimens. Some of the males have a few black hairs in the lower edge of the mystax, on the tips of the palpi, and on the vertex. One or two have all segments of the antennae black. One has the third, as well as the second, antennal segment brown.

In Pritchard's key to the species of the subgenus *Mallophorina* Curran³ this species runs to *M. frustra* Pritchard. It differs from that species by the generally paler color of the vestiture, by the far more extensive black ground-color of the femora, and by the fewer or total lack of black hairs on the posterior part of the mesonotum, palpi, and lower mystax. The wings of this species are also much paler than are those of *M. frustra*.

The types were collected in an area of vegetated dunes on the upper edge of a scattered stand of junipers, *Juniperus osteosperma* (Torr.) Little, on the western slopes of Little Granite Mountain, a small, semi-isolated desert mountain on the eastern edge of Dugway Valley, central Tooele County, Utah. The elevation at which they were collected is about 4,600 feet above sea level. The principal vegetation is *Eriogonum dubium* Stark and various species of *Chrysothamnus*. All specimens of these flies were found resting on sticks, dry twigs, or directly on the dry, sandy ground. When netted, one specimen had in its grasp a small Megachilid bee. The Millard County specimens were collected in a dune area some nine miles east of Delta. The shrubbery here is composed of *Artemisia tridentata* Nuttall and various species of *Chrysothamnus*.

3. Pritchard, A. Earl. 1935. New Asilidae from the Southwestern United States (Diptera). American Museum Novitates No. 813.