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STUDIES IN NEARCTIC DESERT SAND DUNE ORTHOPTERA

Part VIII. A Grasshopper New to the Utah List¹

Ernest R. Tinkham²

On the morning of July 25, 1960, after having collected by lantern light the night before on the Coral Pink Dunes 3 miles southeast and ten miles southwest of Mt. Carmel Junction, Utah, I was preparing to leave the small parking area when I decided to obtain a small sample of red sand for study. In so doing I had to follow a path traversing a habitat of tall Sage Brush (*Artemesia tridentata*) to the nearest bank some one hundred feet away. I had crossed this area several times previously that morning but as temperatures were warming up, insect activity was also increasing. This time I heard the buzz of a grasshopper along the path that sounded new to me. Getting my net, I soon had the specimen. Intensive search over the small area of sage brush netted an additional three males in half an hour. The coarse humus layer, typical of an *Artemesia* habitat, was covered with a fine topping of sand from the dunes close by, producing a habitat favorable to this species. Later, while determining the specimens, I had occasion to compare the reddish colored males with grayish colored males of *Trimerotropis arenacea* Rehn collected in similar environment on low dunes semistabilized with *Artemesia tridentata*, 3 miles west of Winnemucca, Nevada. Although very slightly more slender with the wing discs more brightly yellow, the Utah specimens were otherwise very closely similar to the Winnemucca males of *T. arenacea*. The Winnemucca specimens were captured, August 11, 1948, on my Great Basin Desert Expedition, but search in the same area on September 17, 1958, proved it barren of all forms of Orthopteran life.

T. arenacea was described from Springfield, Bingham County, Idaho, about 18 miles NW of Pocatello, and this record extends its distribution southward at least 400 miles. This capture adds another species to the imposing list of *Trimerotropis* for Utah, which Barnum (1954) listed as twenty, including *T. agrestis*. Typical *T. agrestis* does not occur in Utah but in 1960, I named two new races, namely; *T. agrestis gracewileyae* from the dunes of Emery County of the San Rafael Desert and *T. a. barnumi* from dunes of the Great Salt Lake Desert. These additions bring the list to 22 species for the genus which appears to be a North American State Record.

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