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## On *Scolia bicincta* Fab. and *Scolia undata* Klug (Hymenoptera, Scoliidæ)

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## On *Scolia bicincta* Fab. and *Scolia undata* Klug (Hymenoptera, Scoliidae).

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On looking over our specimens of *S. bicincta* and *S. undata* I find that they grade into one another and that no definite line of demarcation can be drawn between them.

In addition to the usual white cross bands on the second and third abdominal segments above, which may be without any interruption whatever, even in otherwise typical *undata*, there are present in two-thirds of the males examined and in one-third of the females, white markings of some sort on either the pronotum, post-scutellum, first abdominal segment above or second abdominal segment below, or on all of these or in any combination.

The spots on the pronotum are usually a small round spot on each side in front; one specimen, however, has a spot on only one side and another has an enlarged transverse wedge-shaped spot on each side. Present in five males.

The marking on the postscutellum is usually a small roundish dot, elongate in one specimen. Present in nine males and three females.

The marking on the first abdominal segment is either a roundish dot or a transverse stripe; in the latter case it may be either short and narrow, extending on about the middle fourth of the segment, or it may be broader and extend right across the segment. In two cases there is a roundish dot on one side of the middle, instead of in the middle. Present in some form in twenty-seven males, and three females.

On the underside of the second abdominal segment there is, in seventeen males, a roundish or oval spot not far from the lateral margin of the segment. These spots vary a good deal in size and but little in shape.

The following table shows the number of specimens showing the various combinations of the above markings:

With usual white stripes on segments 2 and 3 only, males 16, females 11.

With additional markings as below:

	males	females
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1	A spot or stripe on seg. 1 above only.....	9	2
2	A pair of white spots on seg. 2, below only.....	1	0
3	A white dot on postscutellum only.....	2	2
4	On seg. 1 above, and seg. 2 below only.....	10	0
5	On seg. 1 above, seg. 2 below and postscutellum only.	1	0
6	On seg. 1 above, seg. 2 below, postscutellum and pronotum.....	3	0

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7 On seg. 1 above, seg. 2 below and pronotum only....	I	0
8 On seg. 2 below and postscutellum only.....	I	0
9 On seg. 1 above and postscutellum only.....	I	1
10 On seg. 1 above, and pronotum only.....	I	0
11 On seg. 1 above, pronotum and postscutellum only..	I	0
	—	—
Total.....	47	16
With white crossbands only on segs. 2 and 3 above..	16	11
With additional white markings.....	31	5

Specimens examined, Raleigh: 33 males, 9 females; Elizabeth City: 6 males, 1 female; Andrews: 4 males, 1 female; Jefferson: 1 male; Blowing Rock: 1 male; Bushnell: 1 male; Statesville: 1 male; Greensboro: 2 females; Durham, Blantyre and Whittier: 1 female each. All localities in North Carolina and all specimens taken between mid-July and mid-September.

#### House Flies in Court.

One of the noblest decisions on record, so far as bald-headed men are concerned, has been handed down by the Supreme Court of Maine. It is notorious that a bald head has a peculiar attraction for the common house fly. He prefers to roost there or promenade there to any other place in the neighborhood. Now the high court has declared the bald-headed persons are entitled to protection. In the case of Williams vs. Sweet, a hotelkeeper sued because the defendant, who had contracted for accommodations for a certain period, left the hotel before the time had elapsed. The defendant said he was pestered by flies, which were particularly numerous in the dining room.

The august court held that the fly is a nuisance and its disease-carrying characteristics are well known. A patron of a hotel was warranted in leaving the establishment, regardless of a contract for a longer stay, if the dining room was infested with the pests. An innkeeper, it declared, agreed by implication to furnish accommodations compatible with the prices paid, the standing of the hostelry and the class of persons invited to become patrons. "Accommodations," the judges asserted, included apartments, dining service and sanitary conditions, and if the hotelkeeper failed to maintain these in inviting and wholesome manner the patron was warranted in seeking quarters elsewhere, regardless of an engagement to remain for any specified time.

Hotel men had better get busy with their fly swatters. Restaurant people also.—RICHARD SPILLANE in the *Public Ledger*, Philadelphia, Aug. 4, 1920.