RECOGNITION OF ADULTS OF SIREX NOCTILIO AMONG SPECIES OF THE GENUS SIREX IN NORTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT

Among the seven genera of the New World, Sirex is the most diverse. Schiff et al. (2006) list 10 species of Sirex. Work in progress with D.R. Smith (Washington, DC) and N.M. Schiff (Stoneville, MS) brings several changes among the named species and new species for a total of 11 species.

The family Siricidae and the genus Sirex are characterized. Special characters are pointed out to allow for fast field recognition. Then, characters to segregate both sexes of Sirex noctilio are shown. Old characters presented in previous papers and new characters found recently are discussed. Segregating characters include puncture development on the dorsal surface of the head and sculpture development around punctures of the mesoscutum in both the female and male, tarsal pad and ovipositor pit development in the female, and hind leg color patterns in the male. With clean and freshly collected or alcohol-preserved specimens, it should be possible to sort out adults of S. noctilio in the field anywhere in North America using a 10 to 20 times magnifying lens.

Literature Cited