

## Two Orthopteroid Insects New to the Virginia Fauna (Saltatoria: Conocephalidae; Blattaria: Blattidae)

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Although there are no published lists of the various insects groups formerly included in the order Orthoptera known to occur in Virginia, a number of fairly comprehensive accounts for the state fauna (e.g., Fox, 1917; Rehn & Hebard, 1916) or specific regions (e.g., Davis, 1926; Hebard, 1945) collectively give an impression of these insects in the Commonwealth. It is clear, however, that a considerable number remain to be collected and recorded, a good example being the camel crickets, genus *Ceuthophilus* as evident from the distribution maps in Hubbell's 1936 revision of that group. The extreme southeastern and southwestern parts of the state seem most likely to yield overlooked resident hexapods, and I provide here some documentation on two species inhabiting the former

area. One is large but apparently not common, the other is small but widespread and actually extremely abundant at most of its known localities.

Order Saltatoria (Orthoptera)

Family Conocephalidae

*Pyrgocorypha uncinata* (Harris)

Blatchley (1926: 511) stated that "...the species is known to range from Clarksville, Tenn., and Raleigh, N. Car., west and south to Arkansas, Texas, Cuba, Mexico, and Central America, though very few records of its occurrence in the United States

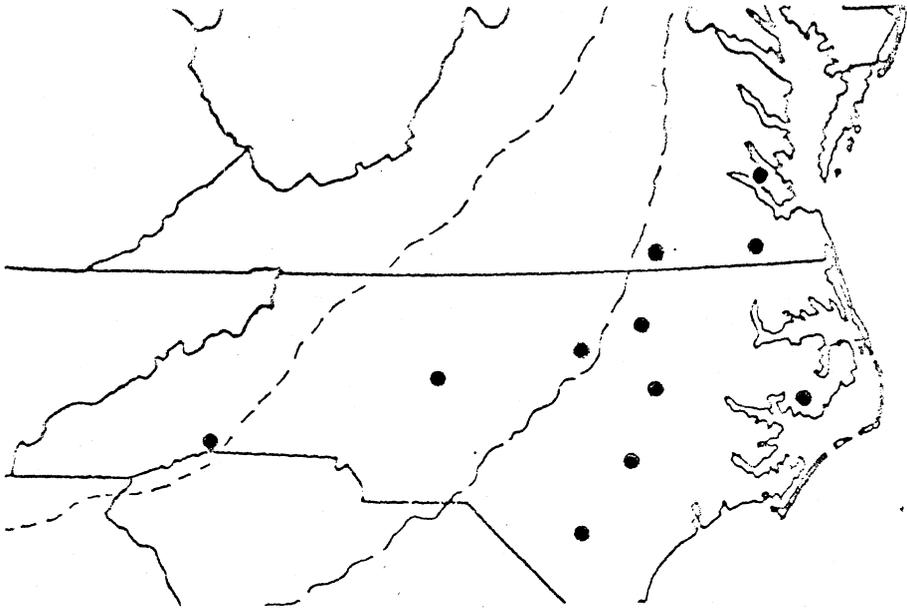


Fig.1 Distributional localities for *Pyrgocorypha uncinata* in Virginia and North Carolina. Dashed lines show east and west boundaries of the Piedmont.

have been made." Brimley's list (1938) of North Carolina insects added no localities further north or east than Raleigh, and I am not aware of any published for Virginia. Specimens recently seen by me, however, establish this species as a member of our Coastal Plain fauna.

**City of Suffolk:** Holland, at the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, 9 June 1975, J. W. Jenkins (VPISU 10). **Greensville Co.:** ca, 1 mi/1.6 km east of Claresville, end of Cty. Rte. 666, 25 March 1994, museum survey (VMNH 10). **James City Co.:** Williamsburg, collector not specified (USNM 2)

These localities imply that *uncinata* probably occurs throughout the southeastern Virginia Coastal Plain, north at least as far as the York-James Peninsula. The Williamsburg locality extends the known range of the species about 150 mi./240 km northeast of Raleigh.

The Holland specimen was taken at a black light trap in a region which, although extensively cultivated, retains several nearby wooded stands. The Greensville locality is on a small sandy knoll in a small grove of sweetgum and yellow pine, surrounded by cultivated fields. Blacklight traps have been operated there on several occasions during the summer months of 1993-1996 without attracting any arboreal conocephalid. The specimens from Greensville County and Williamsburg were taken relatively early in the year for adult tettigonids, and may represent recent emergence from overwintering sites.

In North Carolina (Fig. 1), *uncinata* occurs across the Piedmont as far as Tryon, in the Blue Ridge foothills. Records for Asheboro and Raleigh suggest the possibility of Piedmont populations in Southside Virginia as well, perhaps in the vicinity of Buggs Island Lake.

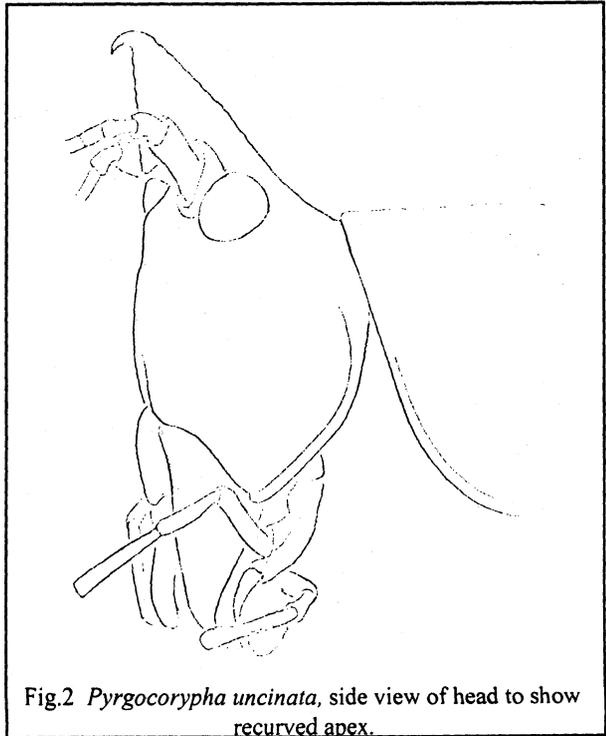


Fig.2 *Pyrgocorypha uncinata*, side view of head to show recurved apex.

*Pyrgocorypha uncinata* is one of the "cone-headed" katydids, so-called because of the elongation of the head above the eyes. From other Virginia members of this group, *uncinata* is easily distinguished by the small but acute apical hook of the cone (Fig. 2) to which the specific name refers.

### Order Blattaria

### Family Blattidae

### *Cariblatta lutea lutea* (DeSaussure & Zehntner)

The "Little Yellow Cockroach" has been recorded from as close to Virginia as Raleigh and Roanoke Island, North Carolina (Brimley, 1938). With these as northernmost localities, it was almost inevitable that the species would be found in eastern Virginia, and it was in fact collected at Cape Henry many decades ago by entomologists from the National Museum of Natural History. (this record has apparently never been published). The species does not seem to be readily taken by conventional hand-collecting and black-lighting, but the recent application of pitfall techniques in southeastern Virginia reveals it to be actually common and widespread (Fig. 4). VMNH has about 700 prepared specimens (most still in alcohol), and undoubtedly many more are in unsorted pitfall samples. Our material was collected at the following localities:

**City of Chesapeake:** Fentress Naval Air Station (2).  
**City of Virginia Beach:** Seashore State Park (580); Munden Point (76); Oceana Naval Air Station (24).  
**Greensville Co.:** 1 mi./1.6 km east of Claesville, end of Cty. Rte. 666 (13); 2.3 mi./4 km ENE of Slate's Corner (5).  
**Mecklenburg Co.:** 1.0 mi./1.6 km N of Norvelle (1); 3 mi/5 km S of Boydton (3); Elm Hill

State Game Management Area (1). **York Co.:** Yorktown Naval Weapons Station (3); ponds at Grafton Natural Area Reserve (1).

The present lack of records elsewhere in southeastern Virginia may be only the result of inadequate collection. Pitfalling has been conducted in this lacuna only at the Zuni Ecologic Reserve in westernmost Isle of Wight Co., and perhaps the traps there were placed in a habitat unsuitable for this cockroach. The low numbers of individuals taken at the peripheral localities suggest fairly recent immigration to the north and west.

A midsummer peak in surface activity (chiefly but not exclusively by adults) is dramatically shown by the following breakdown of capture dates by month:

January.....	0
February.....	0
March.....	3
April.....	2
May.....	41
June.....	263
July.....	296
August.....	23
September.....	3
October.....	1
November.....	0
December.....	2

In contrast to the monotonous brown shades of other Virginia cockroaches, the color pattern of *C. lutea* is complex and attractively variegated (Fig. 3).

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The generous cooperation of Christopher A. Pague and Kurt A. Buhlmann (formerly zoologists, Virginia Division of Natural Heritage, DCR) and Joseph

C. Mitchell in donating extensive pitfall captures to VMNH is acknowledged with pleasure and appreciation.

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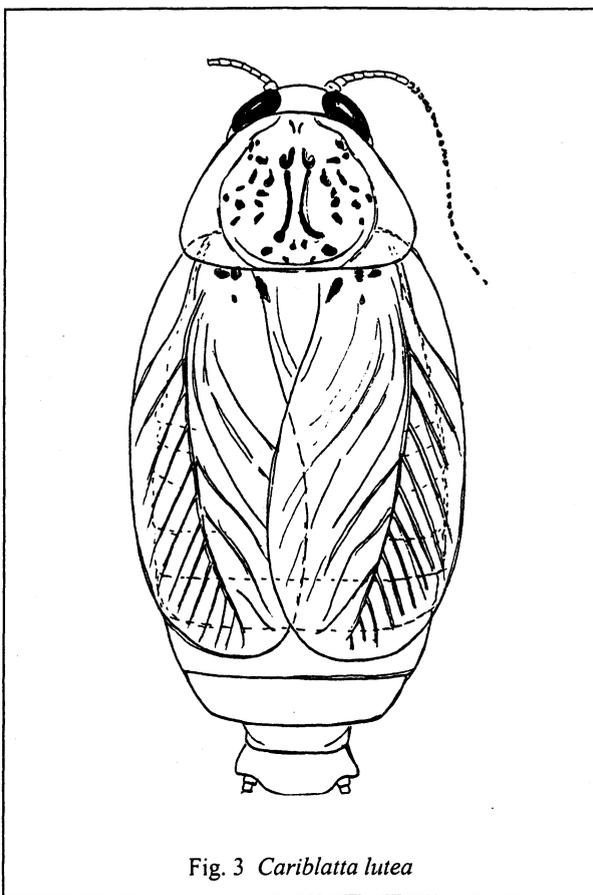


Fig. 3 *Cariblatta lutea*

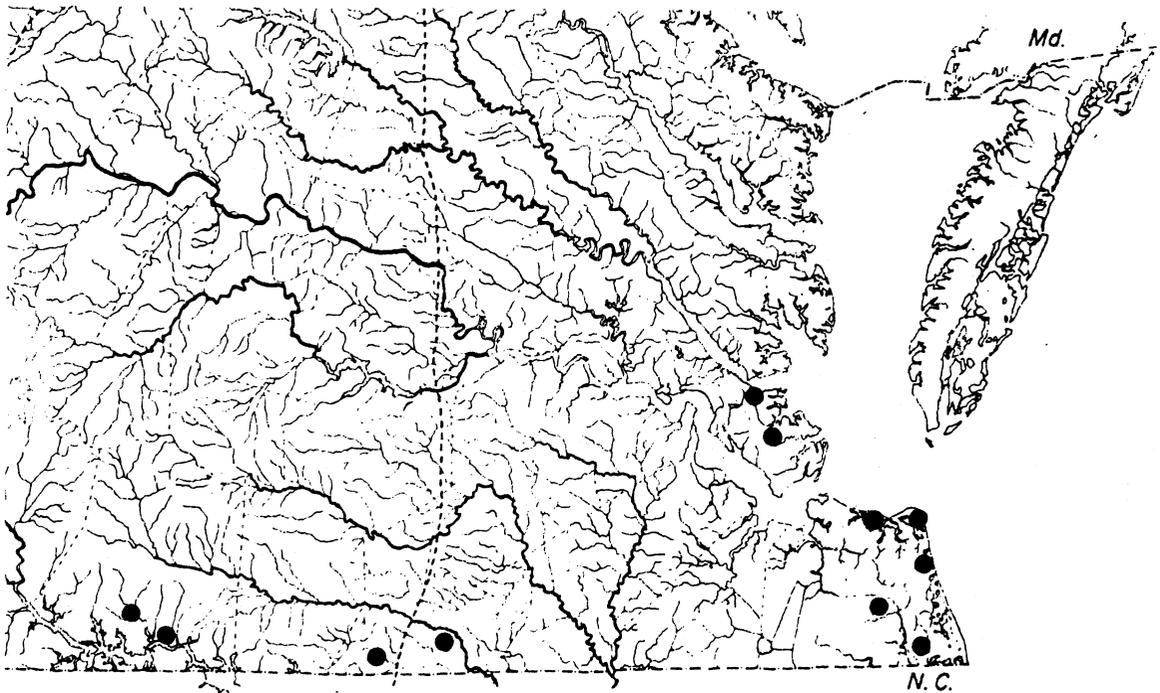


Fig.4 Distributional records for *Cariblatta lutea* in southeastern Virginia

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