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The First Report of the Occurrence of *Mecidea Major* (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) in Illinois

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ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE OCCURRENCE OF *MECIDEA MAJOR* (HEMIPTERA: PENTATOMIDAE) IN ILLINOIS

Species of the phytophagous genus *Mecidea* occur in the subtropical and adjacent temperate parts of the world and appear to be associated with xerophytic and semixerophytic areas (Sailer, Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus. 102:471-505, 1952). Two species occur in North America, *M. minor* Ruckes and *M. major* Sailer. *M. major* has a more eastern distribution than *minor*, ranges from Arizona and Texas north to Kansas and Missouri, and is probably primarily associated with grasses (Sailer, op. cit.). It has not previously been reported from Illinois although Hart (Illinois Natur. Hist. Surv. Bull. 13:157-223, 1919) felt that it (listed as *M. longula* Stål) might eventually be found in western Illinois, and McPherson (Great Lakes Entomol. 12:91-98, 1979) listed it as a species of possible occurrence in the state.

On 6 September 1980, we swept an adult female of *M. major* from roadside grassy and herbaceous vegetation near Fountain Bluff, which is located in the southwest corner of Jackson County. No additional specimens were found on that day nor during a second trip to the same site on 26 September. Thus, it is possible that this specimen was adventitious rather than a member of a local population.

The specimen is deposited in the Entomology Collection, Southern Illinois University Zoology Research Museum.

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