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NEW RECORDS OF RHOPALOSOMATIDAE  
(HYMENOPTERA: VESPOIDEA) FROM WISCONSIN

Steven J. Krauth

## ABSTRACT

The rhopalosomatid *Olixon banksii* is recorded from Wisconsin for the first time.

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Rhopalosomatidae is a small family of four genera and 34 species worldwide (Goulet and Huber 1993). Members of the family are widespread in the tropics (Hanson and Gauld 1995) but infrequently represented in North American institutional collections. Species of *Olixon* are external sac-forming parasitoids of Gryllidae (Orthoptera). Members of the genus are unusual in that brachyptery is equally developed in both sexes; they have tiny ocelli and are diurnal (Krombein and Hurd 1979). *Olixon banksii* (Brues) has been recorded from Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina and Ohio (Townes 1977, Krombein and Hurd 1979). Specimens of *O. banksii* were collected in Wisconsin as part of a cooperative prairie insect inventory. This multi-state survey is being conducted by non-government organizations and state agencies funded in part by the Partnerships for Wildlife Grants Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sampling methods emphasize low impact techniques such as sweep netting and pitfall trapping, with the limitations they imply (Topping and Sunderland 1992). Since Wisconsin's entomofauna had not been systematically inventoried, a number of unusual recoveries and range extensions have been discovered and will be documented in future publications. The general survey of remnant prairies for invertebrates has resulted in unpublished faunal lists of Coleoptera, Hymenoptera (R. Henderson, pers. corres.) and Homoptera (K. Hamilton, pers. corres.).

The first Wisconsin collection record for Rhopalosomatidae was made using pitfall traps on the Chiwaukee Prairie in Kenosha Co., WI. The Chiwaukee Prairie is a 225-acre parcel of native wet prairie owned by the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and under the stewardship of The Nature Conservancy (Hanneman 1998). This site is in the southeastern corner of Wisconsin, bordered by Lake Michigan on the east and the Illinois state line to the south. Since hosts are not rare, it is likely further careful collecting will yield additional distribution and seasonal information for this family.

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## RESULTS

**Material examined. WI: Kenosha Co., T1N, R23E, S29.,** 5 July 1999, 1 ♂, pitfall trap 1, W. Suter; 12 July 1999, 1 ♀, pitfall trap 3, J. Walldan; 19 July 1999, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, north pitfall trap, J. Walldan; 30 July 1999, 1 ♀, south pitfall trap 4, J. Walldan.

All five specimens examined are deposited in the University of Wisconsin Insect Research Collection, Madison.

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