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NEW STATE RECORDS FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN
UNITED STATES FOR *AELIA AMERICANA*
(HEMIPTERA: PENTATOMIDAE)

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The genus *Aelia* Fabricius belongs to the group of pentatomine genera which lack a spine or tubercle at the base of the abdominal venter and are keyed by Rolston and McDonald (1984). *Aelia* is holarctic in distribution, but *A. americana* Dallas is the only species known to occur in the western hemisphere. This is a very distinct species and can be readily identified by its elongate oval shape, intermediate size (8.5-9.0 mm), and characteristic coloration. The dorsal surface is striped longitudinally, alternating in pale white and dark brown.

Aelia americana is uncommon and is usually associated with grasses (McPherson 1982). It has been swept from wheat, rye, and barley and may cause some damage to the developing grain (Gates & Peters 1962, Smith et al. 1943). It has been collected also from apple trees in Missouri (Froeschner 1941).

McPherson (1982) gave extensive information on the distribution of *A. americana*, which he said "occurs from British Columbia south to Arizona, and east to Manitoba, Michigan, and Illinois." In the eastern United States there has been no record from south of the Ohio River. The easternmost records are Manitoba (Gibson 1914, Van Duzee 1904, 1917, Walley 1929), Michigan (McPherson 1970), Illinois (McPherson 1974, 1978, 1979, McPherson & Mohlenbrock 1976), and Missouri (Froeschner 1941).

In the spring of 1984, while sweeping various grasses, I collected one female specimen from Macon County, Alabama. Further collecting in the area yielded no more specimens. Simons (1969) reported collecting two female specimens of *A. americana* from neighboring Lee County, Alabama, but these specimens were not found in the Auburn University collection. The Alabama records represent a considerable range extension for the species.

There are also three specimens of *A. americana* representing two new state records in the Louisiana State University collection (LSUC). Two are from Washington County, Arkansas, and the other is from Alfalfa County, Oklahoma.

The label data is as follows: ALABAMA: Macon Co., 4 m. E. Shorter on I-85, 16-IV-1984, D. A. Rider, 1♀ (DAR). ARKANSAS: Washington Co., 18-II-1966, 1♀ (LSUC); 25-II-1966, 1♂ (LSUC). OKLAHOMA: Alfalfa Co., 10-VIII-1982, R. Dahms, 1♂ (LSUC).

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