SCIENTIFIC NOTE

A NEW STATE RECORD FOR *OLIXON BANKSII* BRUES (HYMENOPTERA: RHOPALOSOMATIDAE) IN INDIANA, U.S.A.¹

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Rhopalosomatidae (Vespoidea), consisting of four genera and 34 species (Townes, 1977; Goulet and Huber, 1993), is the most underrepresented family of aculeate Hymenoptera in collections according to Maes et al. (1993). The use of Malaise traps has greatly increased the number of available specimens of the typically crepuscular or nocturnal species in this family, with the exception of the flightless (brachypterous or apterous) genus *Olixon* Cameron (Townes, 1977). The genus *Olixon* is broadly distributed, with eight described species occurring in Australia, Africa, and the Americas. Only one species, *Olixon banksii* Brues 1922, occurs in North America (Townes, 1977), where it has been collected primarily from pitfall traps (Hamilton and Stathakis, 1987; Stange, 1991; Krauth, 2000; McGown, 1998); and less frequently from blacklight, sunlamp/blacklight (McGown, 1998) and Malaise traps (Stange, 1991; McGown, 1998). Other than the observation that *O. banksii* is active night and day, and has been seen running or jumping on sand and leaf litter (Townes, 1977), there is little known about the biology of this species. However, all rhopalosomatids are assumed to have similar life histories and to be koinobiont ectoparasitoids of crickets (Orthoptera: Gryllidae) (Clausen, 1940; Gurney, 1953; Townes, 1977). Although there is some circumstantial evidence for parasitism of *Nemobius* (Nemobiinae), a true host association for *O. banksii* has yet to be established (Townes, 1977).

Here we report the first record of *Olixon banksii* from Indiana. An adult female was recovered from a pitfall trap sample (placed: 5 July 2005, 14:30; recovered 6 July 2005, 19:50) during a study of insect biodiversity at the U.S. Army Atterbury Reserve Force Training Area, a 33,132-ha military installation in central Indiana near Edinburgh. As a part of a study of insects in forested and cleared areas (Taylor et al., 2005), we sampled with pitfall traps in eight 30 x 30 m sample plots. Each plot contained nine traps, which were recovered after ~24 hours. *Olixon banksii* was collected in only one of the 72 pitfall traps deployed in an upland mesic hardwood forest plot in Bartholomew County (UTM: NAD83 zone 16 S 579923mE 4343980mN). Canopy cover at this site was 98%; ground cover was 25% herbaceous and 75% leaf litter, with an average litter depth of 0.73 cm. The specimen has been deposited in the Illinois Natural History Survey Insect Collection.

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