

### The *fontinella* Group

This is a group of four small species and two subspecies that are distinguished from all other Nearctic species of *Cuterebra* by the yellowish or yellowish white hair on the 5th tergite, in striking contrast to the black hair on the rest of the abdomen. The known hosts of two species are sciurids (*Tamias*, *Sciurus*) and *Peromyscus*, plus scattered records from a few other rodents. No records from sciurids are known for other *Cuterebra*. The hosts of two species are presently unknown. No proposed generic or subgeneric name refers to this species group. Bau (1929a) had placed the species in his subgenus *Orthocuterebra*, except for *fasciata*, which he misinterpreted as being near *americana* and *tenebrosa*. Bau (1931b) united the species of the *buccata* and *fontinella* groups in his subgenus *Pseudobogeria*, with *buccata* as the type species.

The presence or absence of a tuft or spot of black hair in the middle of the whitish or yellowish white hair on the mesopleuron is apparently not a completely reliable character in the *fontinella* group. See the discussion under *emasculator* of the variation in the spot from a fairly strong spot (rare) down to a few black hairs visible only under the microscope, and finally no spot at all. This does cast some doubt on the usefulness of the character for *sterilator* and *fasciata* (see key), for which few specimens are known. However, in two species of the *americana* group (males of *polita* and *latifrons*), abundant material has shown that the absence of the spot is a consistent feature, and so the character is mentioned for *sterilator* and *fasciata* for whatever usefulness it may prove to have.

Mature larvae and puparia have somewhat flattened, platelike spines, occasionally somewhat conical, usually bifid to many pointed, in the anterior and posterior bands of spines on the segments. Thus they are characteristic of rodent parasites, which argues against Bau's union of the *buccata* and *fontinella* groups.

#### 1. *Cuterebra emasculator* Fitch (Map 1, Figs. 17-19)

1856. *Cuterebra emasculator* Fitch, Trans. N.Y. State Agric. Soc. 16: 478-485 [N.Y., ex *Tamias striatus*]. Published separately, 1859, Third Report on the Noxious and Other Insects of the State of New York: 160-167.
1863. *C. emasculator*.—Brauer, Monographie der Oestriden: 229 [In key], 232-235.
1863. *C. scutellaris* Brauer, op. cit.: 229 [In key], 230-232, figs. [North America].
1869. *C. "buccata"* (Fabricius).—Rathvon, Am. Entomol. 1: 116 [Lancaster, Penn.; adult from larvae ex *Sciurus striatus*].
1885. *C. emasculator*.—Lintner, Second Report on the Injurious and Other Insects of the State of New York: 45 [Schoharie, N.Y., larvae from *Tamias striatus*].