

SCOLOPS OSBORNI BALL IN KANSAS. (HOMOPTERA FULGORIDAE)

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Scolops osborni Ball was described in the Canadian Entomologist vol. XXXIV, 1902, from seven specimens, three from Iowa collected by Professor Osborn, three from Onaga, Kansas, collected by Crevecoeur and one from Effingham, Kansas, collected by Van Duzee.

One evening about the middle of June, 1927 the writer stopped at a wild grass meadow eleven miles north west of Lawrence, Kansas, to sweep for **Melampsalta calliope** (Walk.) (A small cicada). Numerous sweepings yielded a few cicadas and a great many large **Scolops** which upon close examination proved to be the rare **Scolops osborni** Ball. Up to this time this species was known only from the types and here as many as twenty adults of this fine insect could be taken from the net at one time. Both short and long winged forms were present as well as both nymphs and adults. It was noted that sweeping that portion of the meadow containing numerous compass plants (**Silphium laciniatum** Linn.) yielded more specimens than other parts of the meadow. Observation of the leaves and stems of this plant, before being disturbed with the net, revealed individuals of all ages sitting about, a great many, of them apparently feeding upon the juice of the plant. When darkness finally concluded the collecting, over one hundred and fifty adult specimens were counted.

In September of the same year, at Garnett, Kansas, wild grass meadows containing compass plants yielded only a half dozen mature specimens of this fulgorid. On June 30, 1928, the meadow near Lawrence, Kansas, was visited again and **S. osborni** found in large numbers, both as nymphs and adults. Young compass plants, with two or three leaves, were often observed with ten to twenty individuals upon them. The young tender shoots were much preferred to the older hardened stems. The eggs of this species have not been found. The meadow in question is mowed each summer for the wild hay and is occasionally burned over. Just how this species survives this treatment is rather a mystery but survive it, it does and seemingly in increasing numbers. **Scolops osborni** Ball, once rare is now common.