

an entomology student from the University of California at Los Angeles; according to Dr. J. N. Belkin the specimens were most likely taken at Tapia Park in Malibu Canyon. This park is a favored site for school field trips. Unfortunately, recent changes in the Tapia Park area have completely demolished the most likely sites.

All these females are conspecific; 15 years ago they would have been placed in the former genus *Sysphincta* with no difficulty. The clypeus is angularly produced in the middle, the petiole is somewhat nodiform in profile (though less so than is usual), the gastric configuration is more nearly that of *Sysphincta* than *Proceratium*, and the wing venation is typical of *Sysphincta*. As pointed out above, Cook erred in assigning his species to *Proceratium*; it should have, at that time, been placed in *Sysphincta*, with which it agreed in all essential characters. It was this realization, especially, which led me to assume that the females were also conspecific with Cook's species; both the male type and the alate females are typically *Sysphincta* in both habitus and structure and therefore readily separable from most of the Nearctic forms. In addition, there was the fact that no other members of this group had been previously discovered in California.

COMPARATIVE NOTES ON *PROCERATIUM* SPECIES

Dr. Brown has very generously sent me specimens of a number of species of *Proceratium* for comparison with California material. The three eastern United States species, *P. croceum* (Roger), *P. pergandei* (Emery), and *P. silaceum* Roger, are represented in this material. From *P. croceum* and *P. silaceum*, the California females may be separated immediately by the produced clypeus and more nodiform scale. Both of the species lack any indication of an angular projection on the clypeal margin and the petiolar scale is fully erect and compressed from front to back so that it is much higher than long. The resemblance to *P. pergandei* is much closer, but fundamental differences are abundant. The paired carinae of the middle clypeal lobe of *P. pergandei* form a broad-based inverted "V" near the apex of the lobe which coalesce well below the level of the antennal sockets, the occipital margin is distinctly convex in full face view, the head, in full face view is not so markedly narrowed above the level of the eyes, the petiolar node is more depressed, the ventral petiolar projection is spine-like and directed caudad and the gastric configuration is quite distinct. In the females here associated with *P. californicum* the clypeal carinae form a much elongated inverted "V" and coalesce above the level of the lower margin of the antennal sockets, the head is markedly narrowed above the eyes, and the ventral petiolar process appears as a blunt, somewhat triangular lamella directed cephalad.

When compared with the Central American species, *P. micrommatum* (Roger), there are no obvious close relationships. In *P. micrommatum*, total length is much less, the antennal scapes are shorter and the petiolar and gastric configurations are different. Three of the Neotropical species, *P. convexeiceps*