

CHAPTER 27

Pentacentrinae: Anomalous Crickets

This subfamily, which is small and largely tropical, is represented in the United States by a single species.

Trigonidomimus: Belfrages' Cricket

Of the five species in this New World genus, only one occurs north of Panama.

BELFRAGE'S CRICKET *Trigonidomimus belfragei* MAP 27-1

Identification: (Fig. 27-1) (5-7 mm) A small brown cricket that looks superficially like a sword-bearing cricket but has the antennae originating below the middle of the face (Fig. 27-2). The second tarsal segments are small and cylindrical (Fig. 27-3); the hind tibiae are slender and modestly spined; and the ovipositor is slender and straight (Fig. 27-4).

Habitat: Unknown; flies to light. The tarsi and ovipositor resemble those of ground dwelling species.

Season: Aug.-Oct.

Song: Unknown. Males of some species of anomalous crickets have female-like forewings and are mute.

Similar species: (1) Sword-tailed crickets—second tarsal segments pad-like (Fig. 21-); ovipositor flattened and often curved. (2) Ground crickets—tibia robust with large spines (Fig. 21-).

Remarks: This species is known from only four specimens, all female: two from Bosque County, Texas; one from Stillwater, Oklahoma; and one from Vera Cruz, Mexico. Because the records are so few and the habitat is unknown, the distribution of Belfrage's crickets within the United States is highly uncertain.

References: Caudell 1912*, Hebard 1932.

