

Further specimens and their habitat were not found until December 1962 when a single specimen was taken by the writer at Upper Cedar Creek, Samford, Queensland. Many others were seen on this occasion and two more were collected a year later in the same locality. A recent visit to North Queensland yielded more specimens: Paluma Dam, 28.xii.1963; Crystal Ck., Mt. Spec, 29.xii.1963; Millstream Falls, Atherton Tableland, 7.i.1964; Crystal Cascades, Cairns, 30.xii.1963.

Little appears to be known of the habits of this rare family. Drake and Hoberlandt (1951) record *Patapius* spp. as occurring under stones and bark in Angola. However in all localities in Queensland *Valleriola wilsonae* has been found running about actively on rocks projecting from and bordering swift flowing streams. They are extremely difficult to see and subsequently to collect, as they fly swiftly from rock to rock, often over water, when disturbed. During overcast weather they tend to shelter in cracks and under ledges of rock.

In some localities they were found to be sharing an almost identical ecological niche with a species of *Saldula* (Saldidae), often occurring on the same rock. Closer observation revealed that *Valleriola* occurred only on dry rock and *Saldula* in small groups on the spray-wetted parts. Thus it appears feasible that *Valleriola* could range some distance away from the stream in rocky regions although they have not been searched for exhaustively in such areas.

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THE RED-BANDED THRIPS *SELENOTHRIPS RUBROCINCTUS* (GIARD) IN QUEENSLAND (THYSANOPTERA: THRIPIDAE)

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The red-banded thrips, *Selenothrips rubrocinctus* (Giard), was first described from Guadeloupe, French West Indies (Giard 1901). Maxwell-Lefroy is cited by Russell, 1912, as reporting its presence in Ceylon and claiming that it was introduced to the West Indies from there. The Commonwealth Institute of Entomology has given the distribution of the species in Distribution Map No. 136, issued in December 1961, with records from all continents except Europe and Australia. Ceylon is omitted with the claim that the early record was not substantiated. Close to Australia, records are from New Britain, New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands.

The thrips is herein reported from Australia, and since it occurs on cultivated plants under frequent observation, the lack of earlier records suggests that it is a fairly recent introduction to this country. One of the records detailed below was published earlier with the generic name mis-spelt (Rep. Dep. Agric. 1960).

The first sighting of *S. rubrocinctus* in Queensland was on mango foliage at Kamerunga near Cairns in January 1950, by a visiting entomologist, Mr. N. L. H. Krauss, of Honolulu, Hawaii. The next record was from Ayr, also in North Queensland. Slides of the insect dated September 1, 1952, from Ayr, are held by the Department of Primary Industries, Brisbane but there is no record of the host plant.

The author found it on avocado trees in May 1960, in a home garden at Woombye in south Queensland. The foliage of several large trees was obviously russeted and much of it had fallen. Other trees in the town were lightly infested, and on some of these an association of *S. rubrocinctus* and *Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis* Bouche was found. A similar association was recorded by Russell (1912). Large mango trees near the Woombye infestation showed no population in 1960, but when re-examined in July, 1962, there was a light infestation on the leaves. Examination of avocados in the coastal region including Woombye has shown one infested tree near Beerwah in 1960 and one at Nambour in 1962. The latest record, May 1963, is from Benaraby, near Gladstone, on the central Queensland coast. These specimens were "from mango and pecan", which are likely to be only home garden trees in that district.

There have been no infestations reported from commercial orchards to date, but *S. rubrocinctus* must be regarded as a potential minor pest of the avocado in Queensland.

Overseas host records include avocado, mango, cacao, cashew, guava, rose and cotton.

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