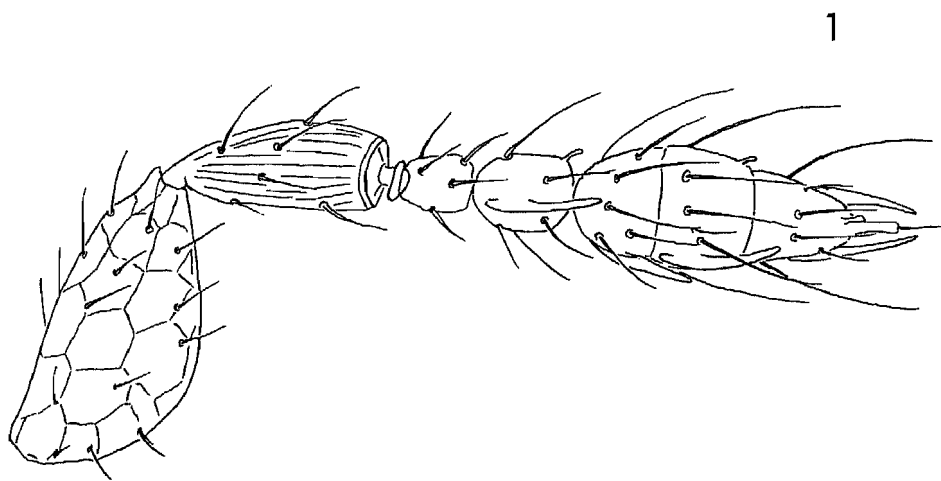


Scientific Note

**DESCRIPTION OF THE MALE OF *CERANISUS*
AMERICENSIS (GIRAULT) (HYMENOPTERA:
EULOPHIDAE)**

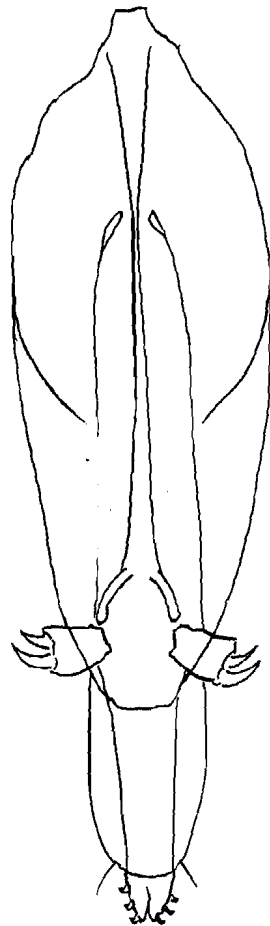
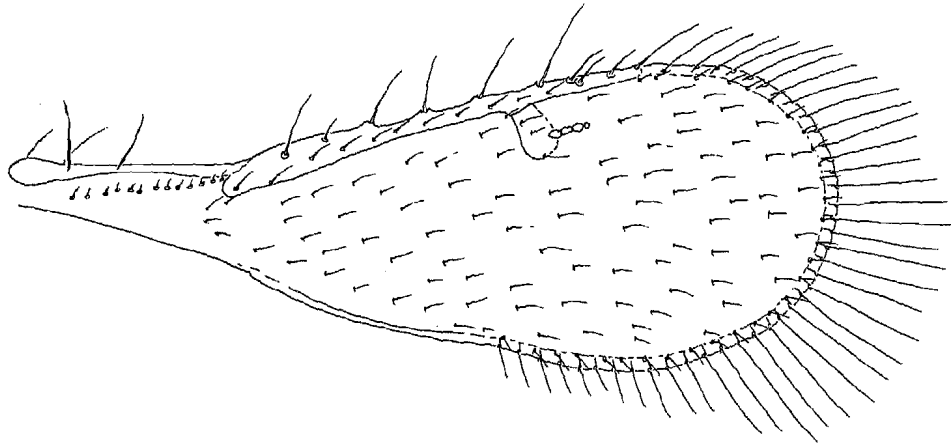
Members of the genus *Ceranisuus* Walker (Eulophidae, subfamily Entedoninae) are solitary, internal parasitoids of immature stages of thrips (Thysanoptera). The Nearctic species of *Ceranisuus* have been recently revised (Triapitsyn, S. V. & D. H. Headrick. 1995. Trans. Am. Entomol. Soc., 121(4): 227–248). However, this revision lacks a description of the male of *Ceranisuus americensis* (Girault), a common parasitoid of flower thrips, *Frankliniella* spp., in North America. The importance of *C. americensis* as a biological control agent against western flower thrips, *Frankliniella occidentalis* (Pergande) (Greene, I. & M. Parrella. Greenhouse Grower, Dec 1992: 69–72, as *Ceranisuus* sp.), warrants complete taxonomic knowledge of this parasitoid species.

Ceranisuus americensis, originally described as a *Thripoctenus* (Girault, A. A. 1917. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., 53(2213): 445–450), was known only from females until recently, when Robert Zuparko sent several *Ceranisuus* specimens to us for a possible species identification. This material, collected in California in 1964, contained females of *C. americensis* along with two males that we consider as being conspecific. Despite sexual dimorphism in some antennal structures common among *Ceranisuus* spp. (i.e., a swollen scape and a 3-segmented club in males and a slender scape and a 2-segmented club in females), both female and male *C. americensis* share similar funicular characters: F1 is small and usually lacking sensilla whereas F2 is much larger than F1 and bears several sensilla (Fig. 1).



Figures 1–3. *Ceranisuus americensis* (Girault), male. 1. Antenna; 2. Forewing; 3. Genitalia.

2



3

Figures 1-3. Continued.

This combination of characters appears to be unique relative to other known males of this genus. A description of the male of *C. americensis* follows.

Male.—($n = 2$) *Length:* 0.73–0.81 mm. *Color:* Body coloration black; antennal flagellum, legs, and wing venation dark brown or brown. *Head:* About as wide as mesosoma, smooth, except occiput, frontovertex and malar space with very fine sculpturing. Antenna (Fig. 1) inserted above level of middle of eye; radicle small and slightly transverse; scape swollen, about 2.0× as long as wide, with reticulate sculpturing (Fig. 1); pedicel markedly strigate and relatively narrow, about 2× longer than wide, as wide as F2; F1 slightly elongate or otherwise globular, without sensilla; F2 oval, much larger than F1, with 2 sensory ridges which extend beyond apex of segment; each of three segments of club with several large sensory ridges, distal segment with distinct apical spicula. Scape and pedicel sparsely setose, flagellum more densely covered by longer setae. *Mesosoma:* Forewing (Fig. 2) slightly narrower than in female. *Metasoma:* Gaster slightly longer and markedly narrower than mesosoma. Genitalia as shown in Fig. 3. Length: 0.15–0.16 mm.

Material examined [slide mounted except those indicated].—USA. CALIFORNIA. VENTURA CO.: 10 mi N of Ojai, Sespe Gorge, 26 Jun 1964, E. F. Riek and G. I. Stage, 18 females and 2 males (including 13 females on points); 6 mi N of Ojai, Wheeler Gorge, same date and collectors, 5 females (including 2 on points) [all in Essig Museum, University of California, Berkeley (CISC)].

Acknowledgment.—We thank Robert L. Zuparko (University of California, Berkeley) for the loan of material and John T. Huber (Biological Resources Division, CLBRR, Agriculture Canada) for the initial identification of the specimens to genus.

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Received 1 Dec 1995; Accepted 7 Mar 1996.