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Sexing *Coleomegilla maculata*^{1,2}P. R. NICHOLS³ and W. W. NEEL³

Department of Entomology, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Mississippi State 39762

Studies of mating habits, sex ratio, and sex attractants of a lady bird beetle, *Coleomegilla maculata* (De Geer), have been hampered by a precise method of identifying the sexes. Reported here is a reliable method for separating the sexes, based upon differences in the external genitalia.

The insect is held by the abdomen dorsally and ventrally with soft forceps. Slight pressure is applied which forces

the genitalia to protrude from the posterior end of the abdomen, and the genitalia are then observed under the dissecting microscope to determine the sex of the individual. When pressure is so applied to the tip of the abdomen of a female, a lightly sclerotized body consisting of 2 terminal parts appears. The lower structure (A) in FIG. 1 is the anus and the somewhat smaller upper component is the ovipositor (B). Only 1 structure protrudes when pressure is applied to a male; this is the aedeagus (C).

Sex determinations were accurate for 100% of the 3000 insects checked by this method, and verified by dissection and observation of mating pairs.

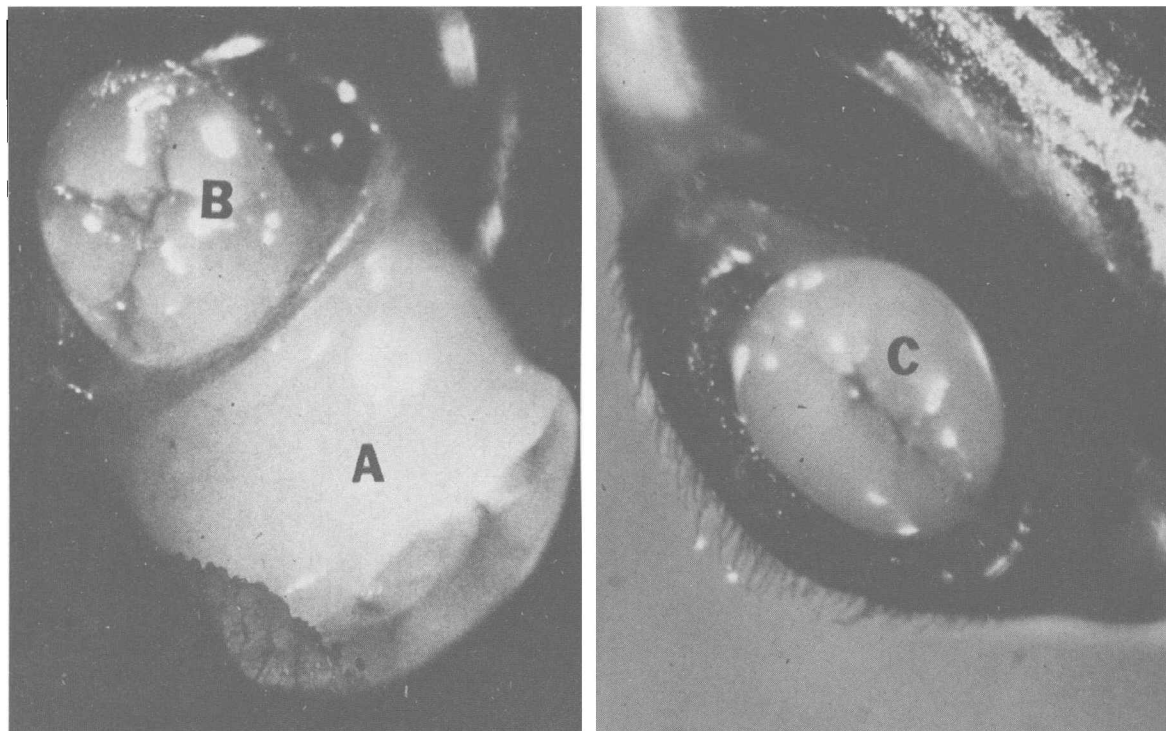
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FIG. 1.—Posterior view of genitalia of female (left) and male (right) of *C. maculata*; dorsal surface toward bottom of plate. (A) anus, (B) ovipositor, (C) aedeagus.