

## A NEW SEED HEAD MIDGE.

by

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The extremely interesting midge described below appears to be on somewhat swollen, arrested seed heads, judging from material submitted for identification. The gall has a length of approximately 5 mm. and a diameter of 2 mm. The insect appears to breed in considerable numbers and is described below.

### *Contarinia eragrostidis* n. sp.

A number of these small midges were reared from the seed heads of *Eragrostis unioides* NEES, collected in Java in August 1922 by Mr. C. A. BACKER, at this date Botanist for the Java Flora at Buitenzorg and forwarded for identification under date of August 8, 1922 by Mr. S. LEEFMANS of the Buitenzorg Institute for Plant Diseases. This species differs from the Indian *Contarinia caudata* FELT in its smaller size, variations in the proportions of the antennal segments in the male, in particular by the greatly produced and uniform circumfilar loops of the female antennae and the shorter ovipositor.

Male. Length 1 mm. Antennae as long as the body, sparsely haired, pale yellowish, 14 segments, the fifth having the basal portion of the stem with a length about  $\frac{3}{4}$  its diameter, the distal part with a length  $\frac{1}{2}$  greater than its diameter, basal enlargement globose, the distal enlargement slightly produced, very broadly oval; terminal segment reduced, strongly constricted near the middle, the basal enlargement subglobose, the distal enlargement broadly fusiform, obtuse apically, palpi indistinguishable in the preparation; mesonotum dark brown, scutellum and postscutellum reddish-yellow, abdomen yellowish, reddish basally, halteres whitish transparent, legs pale straw, claws long, slender, strongly curved, the pulvilli as long as the claws. Genitalia, basal clasp segment moderately long, stout, terminal clasp segment long, tapering from a broad base to a slender toothed apex; dorsal plate deeply and narrowly incised, the lobes broadly angulate; ventral plate indistinct in the preparation.

Female. Length 1.5 mm. Antennae extending to the base of the abdomen, fuscous yellowish, 14 subsessile segments, the fifth with a length  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times its diameter, slightly constricted near the basal third, and sub-basally and sub-apically long, rather broad circumfilar loops, the latter nearly uniform and with a length about  $\frac{1}{2}$  the diameter of the segment; terminal segment produced, with a length 4 times its diameter, slightly constricted near the middle, apically tapering to a broadly rounded apex; long circumfila occur at the basal third and distal fourth. Palpi, first segment subglobose, second short, subquadrate, the third with a length about 3 times its diameter, the fourth a little longer and more slender than the third; mesonotum dark brown, scutellum, postscutellum and abdomen yellowish reddish, ovipositor as long as the body, basal portion yellowish, distal part whitish transparent; terminal lobes rather slender, tapering, with a length about 5 times the width, apically acute and with few rather close setae.

Type Cecid. A3440, N. Y. State Museum.