

**Heriades** of the tallgrass prairie region and greater Midwest  
 M. Arduser – May 17, 2020

**Females:**

- 1. Outer surface of mandible with superior carina and inferior carina joined near the base of the mandible, otherwise carinae parallel.....2
- Outer surface of mandible with superior carina and inferior carina parallel throughout their length, not joined near base of mandible.....3

2(1). Clypeus with a denticle at each apico-lateral margin, clypeal margin between the denticles entire; labrum with a single small tubercle at base (medially); common throughout TGP and midwest .....

.....**carinata** Cresson  
 Clypeal margin without denticles, medially with a broad concavity or emargination, not straight; labrum basally with two small tubercles either side of midline; western species of rare occurrence in the central Great Plains.....  
 .....**cressoni**  
 Michener

3(1). Clypeal margin with median third weakly concave or emarginate, this concavity bordered by two small denticles; mandible short, about one half the length of the eye; head noticeably smaller than thorax; inner surface of foretibia normal, without an oval hollow filled with short dense hairs; common species throughout TGP and midwest.....**leavitti** Crawford and **variolosa** (Cresson)

**[Note:** females of these two species are difficult to separate in many instances. Traditionally separated by the punctures on T2 and T3 (more or less of equal size in *leavitti*, noticeably smaller on T2 in *variolosa*), a large number of specimens are intermediate in those characters, and efforts to find additional morphological characters that separate the females haven't met with much success. Males however are easily separated; see male key below.]  
 Clypeal margin with a small medial projection which may be simple or weakly emarginate, clypeal denticles lacking; mandible long, nearly as long as eye; head relatively massive, nearly as large as thorax; inner surface of foretibia with an oval hollow filled with short dense hairs; introduced species (on East Coast) not yet recorded from the midwest or TGP region.....**truncorum** (Linn.)

**Males:**

- 1. S1 truncate apically; distance from lateral ocellus to edge of vertex equals at least two ocellar diameters.....2
- .....2  
 S1 pointed or rounded apically; distance from lateral ocellus to edge of vertex equals no more than 1.5 ocellar diameters.....3
- .....3

2(1). S6 with two rows of 5-8 short, stout, dark, thickened spines; S2 hairs present, white, sub-erect but not concealing integument.

.....**carinata** Cresson

S6 without stout dark thickened spines, with only some thin pale hairs; S2 covered with long white, dense, sub-erect hairs that largely conceal the integument;

introduced species (on East Coast) not yet recorded from the midwest or

TGP.....**truncorum** (Linn.)

3(1). S1 apically sharply pointed, angle 90 degrees or less; S6 apically with a single patch of pale curved hairs.....

.....**variolosa** (Cresson)

S1 apically rounded, blunt or truncate; S6 apically with two separate patches of pale curved hairs

.....

.....4

4(3). S1 evenly convex in profile, without a tubercle; S1 apically rounded or blunt; labrum basally with a weak elevation across entire basal area, without any tubercles.....**leavitti** Crawford

S1 with a pronounced tubercle; S1 apically truncate; labrum basally with a median tubercle flanked by two smaller tubercles; western species of rare occurrence in the central Great Plains...**cressoni** Michener

End 5/17/20