

**Svastra** of the tallgrass prairie and midwest  
M. Arduser June 15, 2020

**Note:** *Sv. (Brachymelissodes) cressonii* and *Sv. (Anthedonia) compta* also key out in the "Key to genera and selected subgenera".

**Females:**

1. Scopa (hind tibia and basitarsus) all black to chocolate-brown, hairs weakly plumose (i.e., with few branches); T2-T3 without complete apical or medial fascia, although pale lateral fascia sometimes present; T1 apical margin dark; primarily on alluvial plains and bottomlands along large rivers

.....  
.....**atripes**

Scopa pale, hairs either densely plumose or entirely simple; T2-T3 fascia variable; T1 apical margin sometimes translucent; in various habitats.....2

2(1). Pleura with hairs all or mostly brown to black (rarely pale hairs dominate or hairs all pale); sternal hairs dark brown; wing membranes brownish.....**obliqua**

Pleura with hairs all pale, without any dark hairs; sternal hairs usually pale or reddish; wing membranes often clear.....3

3(2). T2-T4 with complete pale medial fascia, fascia bands uniformly narrow throughout (T4 fascia with the apico-medial margin usually with a very narrow border of dark hairs); scopal hairs entirely simple, relatively sparse, integument of hind tibia and basitarsi readily visible; presumed *Oenothera* specialist; rare

.....  
.....**compta**

T2-T4 fascia variable but never uniformly narrow throughout and medial in position; T4 fasciae occasionally with dark hairs medially, but not as a narrow border; scopal hairs plumose (with branches), hairs relatively dense and often obscuring integument.....4

4(3). T2-T4 with pale apical fasciae, fascia bands of uniform length throughout (length about half the length of the corresponding segment), fasciae without any dark hairs medially; T1 finely and very densely punctate except for narrow impunctate apical margin; clypeal apical margin often with small pale maculae.....

.....**cressonii**

T2-T3 fascia when present removed from apical margin and usually broadest laterally and narrowing medially, **or** very broad and largely covering T2-T3; T4 with pale apical fascia, fascia covering most of T4 and often with some dark hairs medially; clypeal margin variable in color but never with pale maculae

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.....5

5(4). T2-T3 mostly covered with white appressed pubescence all the way to apical margins (but often partially worn away), this pubescence somewhat thin; dark

appressed hairs limited to basal areas of T2-T3; T1 apical area usually translucent  
.....**petulca**

T2-T3 with medial whitish fascia, this broadening laterally, usually not reaching apical margins, dark appressed hairs present basally and apically; T1 apical area often dark, **if** translucent then very narrowly or obscurely so.....

.....**texana**

{Note: if texana specimens are from the southern TGP area it would be best to check the key below.}

**Note:** three additional species similar to *S. texana* occur in the Texas TGP region: *aegis*, *comanche* and *grandissima*, *aegis* being largely coastal and occurring eastwards into Louisiana, the other two being restricted to east-central Texas. The females can be separated from *texana* by the following key, largely taken from LaBerge (1956):

**A.** T4 with white pubescent band complete, not interrupted medially by a patch of brown pubescence

.....**texana**

**A'.** T4 with white pubescent band usually interrupted medially by a patch of brown pubescence

.....**B**

**B.** Clypeus with punctures separated by less than one half a puncture width, and becoming confluent laterally and posteriorly, clypeus largely tessellate.....**comanche**

**B'.** Clypeus with punctures discrete, not becoming confluent laterally or posteriorly, clypeus slightly more shiny than *comanche*.....

.....**C**

**C.** T4 with median patch of dark brown pubescence as wide as  $\frac{1}{4}$  of tergum and usually much wider; scutum with dark brown hair patch usually larger than that on scutellum, narrowly separated from tegulae laterally; outer surfaces of middle basitarsi with ochraceous hairs.....**aegis**

**C'.** T4 without median patch of dark brown pubescence or this patch not as wide as  $\frac{1}{4}$  of tergum; scutum with dark brown hair patch usually rounded anteriorly, well-separated from tegulae and scarcely larger than dark scutellar patch, if any; outer surfaces of middle basitarsi with dark brown hairs.....**grandissima**

**Svastra** of the tallgrass prairie and midwest  
M. Arduser April 1, 2019

**Note:** *Sv. (Brachymelissodes) cressonii* and *Sv. (Anthedonia) compta* also key out in the "Key to genera and selected subgenera".

**Males:**

1. T6 without lateral tooth or spine-like process; T2-T4 with pale fascia covering entire apical margins and of uniform width across tergites.

.....***cressonii***

T6 with lateral tooth or spine-like process; T2-T4 variable, but never as above.....2

2(1). F1 and F2 of equal length or nearly so;