Sciara congregata sp. nov. (Diptera).

By O. A. Johannsen,
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

The following description is based on specimens reared at Fayeteville, Arkansas, by Mr. George G. Becker, whose account of the habits of this insect appears in the present number of Psyche.

Sciara congregata sp. nov.

Male: Length 2 mm. Head black, palpi and antennae fuscous, the antennae rather short, about two thirds as long as the wing (measured from humeral cross vein), the intermediate joints not twice as long as wide. Mesonotum subsheining blackish; scutellum, metanotum, and pleura subopaque, brownish black. Abdomen and hypopygium subopaque brownish black, the latter stout, with claspers resembling those of Sciara jucunda, though the apical setae are rather stout. Coxae and legs brownish, the tarsi dark brown; legs relatively short and stout, hind tibia about as long as the petiole of the media of the wing; apical third of tibiae slightly broadened; hind tarsus about 0.8 as long as the tibia, hind metatarsus slightly over 0.7 as long as the following four joints. Wings smoky hyaline, veins dark brown, the radius, the forks of the media and the apical part of the forks of the cubitus beset with setae. R₁ ends two thirds as far proximad of the fork of the media as the tip of Ra is distad of this point; basal section of Ra very faint and indistinct, though the basal section of R is evidently noticeably longer than R₁; costa produced nearly 0.6 of the distance from the tip of Ra to M₁; Ra ends slightly proximad of M₂; petiole of media very inconspicuous; cubitus forks distad of the base of the petiole of the media. Halteres dark.

Female: Length 2.5 mm. Like the male in coloring and structure differing in having slightly shorter antennae, these being less than half as long as the wing, with intermediate joints but little longer than wide; the basal section of Ra and the petiole of the media a little more distinct. The lamellae of the ovipositor are only slightly longer than wide.

Type in my collection; paratypes in the collection of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station. This species will find a place in the key given on page 118, Fungus Gnats of North America (Bull. Maine Agr. Exp. Station, No. 200), between S. vicina and S. dives, differing from both in coloring, venation, and structure of hypopygium.