

***Orchelimum gladiator* Bruner, 1891: An Addition to the Prey Record of the Great Black Wasp, *Sphex pensylvanicus* Linnaeus, 1763 (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae: Sphecinae)¹**

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The Great Black Wasp, *Sphex pensylvanicus* Linnaeus, 1763 is a known predator of katydids (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae) and is rather catholic in its choice of prey seemingly taking any katydid species available. In a previous paper (Lechner 2016), I stated that five species placed in four genera of katydids have been reported as prey items of *S. pensylvanicus*. Also, I reported four confirmed katydid species that I took from *S. pensylvanicus* that nest in the soil behind a vertical retaining wall on my residential property in Sioux City, Iowa. Herein, I add the Gladiator Meadow Katydid, *Orchelimum gladiator* Bruner, 1891 (Figures 1 and 2, next page), to the prey record of *S. pensylvanicus*. I took this paralyzed katydid from its captor female *S. pensylvanicus* on 28 August 2017. At that time, the wasp was attempting to enter her nest with her prey item in the north lot line retaining wall.

Acknowledgments

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Literature Cited

- Lechner, G. K. 2016. Interesting incidents with *Sphex pensylvanicus* Linnaeus, 1763 (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae) wasps and their prey items in Sioux City, Iowa, U.S.A. *Life: The Excitement of Biology* 4:27-31. <https://blaypublishers.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/lechner-leb-41-interesting-incidents-with-sphex-pensylvanicus-linnaeus.pdf>

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Figures 1-2. *Orchelimum gladiator* Bruner, 1891 male. 1. Overall view. Captured on August 28, 2017. Head to apex of abdominal terminalia, 19 mm; head to apex of wing tegmina, 25 mm. 2. Close-up of abdominal apex showing cerci, c.