

Southern Wood Cricket, *Gryllus fultoni* (Alexander) (Insecta: Orthoptera: Gryllidae)¹

T. J. Walker²

Introduction

This field cricket (*Gryllus*) lives in the woods, but "southern woodland field cricket" would be too long and self-contradictory for a useful common name.

For information on other Florida field and house crickets see: <http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures>.

Distribution

This species occurs throughout southeastern US except in south peninsular Florida.

Identification

In the southern wood cricket, the color pattern of the forewings lacks the well defined longitudinal stripe of the southeastern field cricket and the well-defined light veins and crossveins of the sand field cricket. The forewings are not as short and usually not as dark as in the taciturn wood cricket. The stridulatory file has more widely spaced teeth than in the sand field cricket and the taciturn wood cricket. The ovipositor is less than 1.2 times the length of the hind femur. Long-winged individuals



Figure 1. Distribution of the Southern wood cricket throughout the United States.

are not known from the field, but they occur occasionally in laboratory cultures.

Life Cycle

The southern wood cricket overwinters as a mid-sized juvenile and matures in spring. In Florida, some of the progeny of spring adults overwinter as juveniles and others mature in late summer and may

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2. T. J. Walker, professor, Entomology and Nematology Department, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.



Figure 2. Male southern wood cricket, *Gryllus fultoni* (Alexander). Credits: Paul M. Choate, University of Florida



Figure 3. Female southern wood cricket, *Gryllus fultoni* (Alexander). Credits: Paul M. Choate, University of Florida

produce additional overwintering juveniles. Farther north, this partial second generation is lacking.

Habitat

Found in upland pine, turkey oak, moist to dry broadleaf forest.

Song

The calling song (672Kb wav file) is a series of fast-pulsed chirps, with a chirp rate of about two per second. Most chirps have three pulses, with the initial one being somewhat weaker than the rest (graphs).

Selected References

Doherty, J. A., and J. D. Callos. 1991. Acoustic communication in the trilling field cricket, *Gryllus rubens* (Orthoptera: Gryllidae). *Journal of Insect Behavior* 4: 67-82.