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

Thomas J. Walker

**Introduction**

The southern wood cricket, *Gryllus fultoni*, is actually a field cricket even though it lives in the woods. However, a more precise nomenclature, say, ‘southern woodland field cricket’ would be too long and self-contradictory for a useful common name.

**Overview of Florida field crickets**

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

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2. Thomas J. Walker, professor, Department of Entomology and Nematology; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

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

Song
The calling song (672 Kb 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


Figure 2. Male southern wood cricket, Gryllus fultoni (Alexander). Credits: Paul M. Choate, UF/IFAS

Figure 3. Female southern wood cricket, Gryllus fultoni (Alexander). Credits: Paul M. Choate, UF/IFAS